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A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~ James Dent

Emerald News

News for the Emerald Lakes Community

36th Year, 7th Issue

www.elainc.org

July 2009

Toby Supes OK EL Fireworks

TOBYHANNA, Pennsylvania The Tobyhanna Board of Supervisors at their June 8th meeting passed a resolution waiving the requirement that a one million dollar bond be posted in order to obtain a fireworks permit. Such a bond would cost a minimum of \$10,000. Responding to a request by ELA Board of Directors President Buz Whelan the board passed the resolution unanimously on the contingent that the township be named as an additional insured for the duration of the event. The resolution applies only to Emerald Lakes and only for the specific date, July 25, 2009.

ELA resident Barbara DeGeorge and board member Joe Olall were also in attendance when Whelan rose to address the supervisors. He pointed out that the fireworks would be professionally executed by the same company that does displays for Coolbaugh Township. It was further stated that a fire company unit would be present. Whelan said the fireworks would be shot out over a lake and the venue had been scouted and approved by the fireworks company. He pointed out the irony in the fact that in order to be safe we chose a lakefront setting rather than some

other open space, and that while we had open spaces in Tunkhannock Township which does not have a bond requirement, all of our lakes are in Tobyhanna. Whelan also had the Supervisors laughing when he reminded them that "everyone has a cousin Vinny from Brooklyn or Dwayne from Plainfield who use their out-of-state IDs to buy aerial bombs and star clusters from Phantom Fireworks, and then they shoot them off all over the county. Here we're trying to be responsible and we're stopped by an impossible requirement." Whelan went on to explain that we had a million dollars in single instance coverage, two million multiple coverage with a ten million dollar umbrella policy. He described the regulation saying, "It isn't prudent, it's prohibitive." Apparently the supervisors agreed.

The fireworks had been planned as the capstone of the first Emerald Lakes Day. The day-long event, commencing at 12 noon on Saturday, July 25th was conceived as a possible annual celebration to bring as many members and families of the community together. Whelan has described it as "a gathering of the tribe." Games, individual and team

contests (with prizes), a cook-off featuring a variety of choices exotic and traditional, music and, finally at dusk, a fireworks display. Most of the event will take place on the island in Pine Tree Lake, on and adjacent to the beach.

After the vote Whelan told the supervisors he would make sure that the many ELA voters registered in Tobyhanna knew that they had cooperated and made the event possible. Currently, General Manager Gil Werner is working with the fireworks provider and our insurance broker to ensure compliance with the Tobyhanna agreement.



TWO LITTLE WORDS

By Carmen Brodnax

This year's annual meeting is being held Saturday, August 22 at Pocono Mountain West High School as outlined in the Call to Meeting Notice currently being prepared for mailing to the membership. This represents a slight departure from our by-laws which specify "The annual meeting of the Association shall be held on the third Saturday of August..." This year, however, the high school booked another event for August 15, the date we wanted. After wrestling with the options available including changing the venue or delaying the meeting by one week, the board secured the high school for the following week.

This decision was not made lightly. Meetings were held to discuss the options and several calls were made to the attorney to obtain legal counsel. One board member researched alternate venues, suggesting the fire house on Long Pond Road as well as Split Rock Resort as potential sites.

It was decided that sitting on folding chairs for several hours in the fire house might not be the most comfortable meeting place for one hundred or more members to gather in late August. The proximity of Split Rock Resort, when compared to the high school, ruled out that location as not being particularly convenient either. The rental costs also were potentially greater than what we currently pay. It was also taken into consideration that some people may not want to travel to either of the alternatives or they may go where meetings usually are held despite any attempts by the board to broadly advertise if changes in venue were made. Given these considerations, it was decided that the change of date was the least disruptive to the community.

On advice of counsel, we are asking the membership to consider a minor change to the by-laws to keep the Association in compliance in case of future unforeseen situa-

tions/events. The proposed change is to add two words to the by-laws so that Article VIII, Section 2 will read as follows: "The annual meeting of the Association shall be held on or about the third Saturday of August..." The board president will adhere to Roberts Rules of Order and advice of counsel to make a motion prior to the start of this annual meeting to ask the membership's permission to suspend the rules and to proceed in an orderly manner.

Several important issues will be discussed at the meeting as well as three board members elected for the new term. Come out to the "Meet the Candidates" session at the clubhouse Saturday, August 15 (10am to noon) to meet those running and learn why. We hope all members in good standing will make the effort to register for the annual meeting at Pocono West High School on August 22 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. This is your investment and your community. Get involved and support it.

Important Upcoming Dates/Deadlines

Meet the Candidates – August 15th
Annual Meeting – August 22nd

Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	On Stands
August 09	07/24/09	8/14/2009
September '09	08/21/09	9/18/2009
October '09	09/25/09	10/16/2009
November '09	10/23/09	11/13/2009
December '09	11/20/09	12/18/2009

All articles, pictures, schedules, etc must be submitted to
Denise Wilson, Emerald News Editor at emeraldnews@yahoo.com

\$500 Reward

The ELA Board of Directors has approved the offer of a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individuals who destroyed the picnic tables and benches, the cooking grills and signs on Pine Tree Island on or about July 5th.

Don't let the worst of us ruin things for the rest of us. If you know who did this call general manager Gil Werner at 643-3380. All calls will be strictly confidential.

Board of Directors '08-'09

President, Buz Whelan
Secretary, Paul Capozzoli
Director, Alex Leslie
Director, Bill Henry

Vice President, George Haab
Treasurer, Robert Lauri
Director, Joe Olall

Board Meetings are held the 4th Saturday of each month 9:30am at the community center unless otherwise announced

Committees/Clubs

RULES, REGULATIONS & ARC COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Millie Bishop
Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of the month
Time: 9:30am - Admin. office
Recommend to the Board of Directors actions by which the affairs of the Association shall be regulated. Recommend to the Board of Dirs. Actions relative to architecture & environmental issues within Emerald Lakes and assure maintenance of the character of the community.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Bob Lauri
Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month
Time: 9:30am Admin. Office
To assess the maintenance needs of Emerald Lakes and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carmen Brodnax
Meeting: 2nd Sat. of month Bi-monthly
Time: 9:30am - Community Ctr.
To act confidentially and recommend to the Board of Directors courses of action relative to the acquisition of real property and its retention for future use or its disposition to generate income or other benefits for the furtherment of the community's best interest.

LONG RANGE PLANNING & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: David Pope
Meeting: To be announced
Time: To be announced
Study/evaluate trends in the Association and surrounding communities to assist Board setting goals for the Community. Recommend to the Board actions to efficiently control the community financial operations. Including preparation of annual budget.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Joe Olall
Liaison: To be announced
Meeting: To be announced
Time: To be announced

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: Denise L. Wilson
Eileen Avrich
Meeting: As needed
Time: To be announced
Advise/assist Board of Directors in informing members about purpose/function of the Association and its activities through Association newspaper and website www.elaine.org

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Paul Capozzoli
Meeting: As needed
Time: To be announced
To assess the security needs of Emerald Lakes and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
Sub-committee

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Chairperson: Paul Capozzoli
Meeting: 3rd Sat. of month - as needed
Time: 9:30am - Community Ctr.
A watch group to empower people to prevent crime, forge bonds between law enforcement and the community, and build a foundation for broader community improvement, and provide back up at scheduled events.

COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dolores V. Saintil
Secretary: Edie DeVito
Public Relations: Stefania Buono
Meeting: 2nd Saturday of Month
Time: 11:00 am - Comm. Ctr.
To work hand in hand with the Community Center Coordinator, Recreation Director, 50 Plus Club, and the Women's Club to bring events to the Community Center which will include all of Emerald Lakes Families.

FIFTY PLUS CLUB

Co-Chairs: Edie DeVito
Lee Hollingsworth
Meeting: 1st Tues. of month
Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm - Comm. Ctr.
Promote the health, safety & welfare of the members and develop and maintain a spirit of camaraderie & good fellowship among its members through an organized program of social, recreational, fraternal, educational, cultural and informational activities.

WOMEN'S CLUB

Chairperson: Millie Bishop
Meeting: 3rd Thurs. of month
Time: 7:00pm @ the community center
To develop the educational, civic and social interest of the Association's members.

The President's Message

by Buz Whelan



A front page article in this issue points out the change in the date of the Annual Meeting. This was a difficult decision, and we (the Board of Directors) wrangled over this for almost two weeks.

When I was informed by General Manager Gil Werner that we would not be able to book the Pocono Mountain West High School auditorium, the site of the meeting for the past several years, I was faced with a dilemma: was it less disruptive to move the date or the location of the meeting. My first instinct was to move the date and I emailed the Board to get their reaction. Five members responded that they thought that would be okay. Bill Henry called me to read the section of the by-laws covering the date. If you haven't read the by-laws here is that section:

Article VIII, Section 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held on the third Saturday of August in each year if not a legal holiday, and if a legal holiday on the next following Saturday, when the Association shall transact such business as may properly be brought before the meeting. If any annual meeting shall not be called and held within two (2) calendar months after the designated time, any Member may call such a meeting.

Mr. Henry and I felt that the second sentence gave us the wiggle room to legally move the meeting date. We were joined in this belief by Bob Lauri and George Haab. Alex Leslie and Paul Cappozzoli were a little less sure of this interpretation, and Joe Olall was adamant in his belief that this would be a serious violation of the by-laws. After several quite spirited discussions, email exchanges and 3 separate calls to the Association attorney, we went with the change in date.

My own reasoning here was

that the two suggested alternative venues available on the 15th were unsatisfactory. The Tunkannock firehouse has a hard flat floor and walls, making visibility and acoustics problematic. Parking is limited as those who voted in the '04 general election well know. Split Rock would have a comfortable auditorium and adequate parking but the total cost would come to about \$800, \$300 more than the school. But my real objection wasn't cost, it was location. Compared to the school, the trip to Split Rock is distant and complex and could conceivably cause some to be too late to vote or deter them from trying to come altogether.

I'm not sure there's a right and wrong here. A case can be made for either choice. I and those who voted with me may have made the wrong selection, but we did our best. I'd like to hear from community members on this point.

Before I went before the Tobyhanna Board of Supervisors, the general consensus was that I was wasting my time. They don't listen or they listen but don't care. You can't make them change their minds or their rules no matter how cogent the arguments. They're an intransigent group. And that isn't what I found at all. When I spoke they listened. When I finished they asked questions that showed they were really paying attention and considering my request. And after their concerns were addressed, they made the exception. We can have our fireworks. I'm very pleased with the way I was received and by extension, the way the concerns of Emerald Lakes were received.

At that same meeting the Supervisors passed the rezoning request by Pocono Manor. I know some residents in the Blueberry Estates were angry, disappointed or both. But I'm hopeful that Jim Cahill's assurances are sincere. The Manag-

ing Partner has promised that commercial traffic on Sullivan Trail will not increase as a result of the change and that the bucolic nature of the area will be protected. I will stay in contact with him and monitor the situation into the future.

Post-deadline Update: At our open meeting on June 27th the Board of Directors voted 4 to 3 to make official our decision to move the Annual Meeting date to 8/22. Directors Joe Olall, Paul Capozzoli and Alex Leslie were opposed to the move, preferring to move the location. Directors Bob Lauri, George Haab and Bill Henry voted it okay the date change. As chair I broke the tie by voting to move the date and preserve the location. We expect a final opinion from our attorney by July 7th on the legality of our decision. We in the majority feel that Article II, Purpose contains language permitting flexibility in matters such as this. The relevant passage reads, "...and the Association shall have the right and power to do any and all things for the benefit of its Members as may from time to time appear expedient or desirable to the Directors of the Association or its Members..." I think we did the right thing, but we'll have to see what the attorney has to say.

Update:

We have been advised by the attorney that moving the date to August 22nd is within our by-laws guidelines.

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General Manager's Message

by Gil Werner



During the past few weeks a number of issues have been brought to my attention which leads me to believe that there is a need for enhanced communication with the membership pursuant to the day to day operations of the Association.

The staff & I become heavily involved in the mechanics of daily / monthly / yearly business dealings and those items all seem to be crises driven. An example is the seasonal changes that require immediate actions to ensure a number of extremely important items are accomplished which in the past few years may have been overlooked, such as: the lake treatments to reduce the lily pad and aquatic vegetation growth, the addition of sand to the beaches prior to the opening of the season, a proper amount of anti-skid and ice melt ordered in the pre-winter season to ensure adequate stockpiles. These are just a few of the physical maintenance issues. There are more office/administrative issues too numerous to mention that deal with the billing cycle and the annual budget process just to illustrate a few of the extremely important ones. With that all said, allow me to start with the process.

Vehicle Registration/Decals - Many members do not realize that the Association requires all their autos to be registered with the Association. The members receive their auto identification stickers when they presented their auto information to our office staff; these decals are not mailed. This was first started in 2005 and has continued through the present year. Auto/sticker registration is essential in that it becomes important when our Public Safety staff tries to identify vehicles that are abandoned on the side of our private roadways during winter storms. Often times someone becomes stuck in the snow or skids into the roadside drainage ditch; they then find their way to their ultimate destination and in turmoil that is usually involved, they neglect to contact the office until well after the storm. During this time it becomes difficult to as-

sist the membership if the staff does not know if it is a member or a non-member involved in the mishaps. If the Association elects to have the vehicle towed off the roadway, then the member has a large bill to pay in addition to the rest of the unpleasantness. If staff knows who the owner of the auto is then usually arrangements can be made to lessen or diminish the expense of the tow; in fact, if it does not create an immediate road safety issues then the auto can be moved at a later time. Whenever you get a new vehicle or if your decal becomes damaged, it is your responsibility to acquire a new or replacement decal. The Association does not send auto decals in the mail. The lack of auto decals presents the problems of "Who is using our amenities?" If you do not have an auto decal then we are not sure whether you belong here or not.

Legal Vehicles - The Association's rules require that all vehicles parked in the community must be able to be legally operated on the Commonwealth roadways and have a valid state inspection, state registration, and license. Vehicles are not allowed to be parked in the community if they do not meet these parameters. If the Association allowed such vehicles then those parked - possibly in disrepair - would become eyesores to the neighborhood and would have a negative affect on property values.

Recently we have installed signage at all the lakes that allows the Association to have individuals arrested for trespassing. If you are not registered with the office nor have proper ELA ID than how will we be able to tell you are a member? I can only imagine the embarrassment, not to mention the waste of our Pocono Mountain Regional Police's time (that we all pay for in our taxes) by asking the police to arrest one of our members. The Community has a need to ensure that the majority of traffic on our roadways and in our parking lots is, in fact, that of members of the community or those visiting members.

PLEASE help keep us up to date with your information by notifying the office of any changes in your vehicle(s), addresses, phone numbers, family member IDs, boat decals, etc. These important

items are very often overlooked.

Rental Program - Another aspect often misunderstood is the rental program. Yes, this is a program that most of the membership, when they purchase a home in our community pays none or very little attention to. It is important to have your renter register with the Administration Office. There are monetary fines imposed if you do not follow the proper procedures. Again, we have a need to know who is authorized to drive on our roads, park in our lots, and if they elect to become an Associate Member of our community, it is imperative that the member complies.

About Money and Finance

by David Pope



In my last installment I noted that I would move from a global economic perspective to an area that's closer to home, our backyard; specifically, the financial health of Emerald Lakes. My plan was to approach this subject from a detailed budget comparison viewpoint. However, after analyzing the budget comparison report representing the close of fiscal year 2008-09 I realized I had more questions than answers. I will hold true to my word however. Following the annual audit report I will add my opinion and perspective to the opinion of our accounting firm. I believe that my questions and concerns will have been dealt with and viewed from another set of eyes providing more credence to the analysis.

Using the foregoing as an introduction to this writer's opinion of Emerald Lakes financial condition, I can only say- if I were a doctor and Emerald Lakes were my patient, I would request that the patient be move to the intensive care unit ASAP. Emerald Lakes' economic condition is not unlike the economic problems at the state level, the country level, and even the world. At every level we have and continue to be plagued by fiscal mismanagement. Now perhaps fiscal mismanagement is a bit too strong because it's normally associated with an overt, deliberate act. However, in many instances it's more related to the lack of knowledge or the skills that one brings to the financial process. This is certainly true when it comes to Emerald Lakes. For more years than I choose to remember, the Emerald Lakes board has failed to define the business for which they are responsible. That's right! The business. Financial management at

Know the Township where you Reside - Another item that is often forgotten is the township in which you reside. Other than paying your taxes and voting for the candidate of your choice, it may be an issue if the need for emergency service arises. Your call to 911 may prompt the question "what township do you reside in?" Emerald Lakes is divided by three Townships (Tobyhanna, Tunkhannock and Pocono). Realize that of the approximately 2,000 lots and approximately 1530 homes, 70% are located in Tobyhanna Township - 28% are part of Tunkhannock Township and 2% are in Pocono Township (a.k.a. Blueberry

Estates). Some of the township's political leaders have not realized our large number of voters and I am sure it is due to a lack of presence at Township meetings. Your local involvement is essential for your Community to receive proper recognition. Your presence shows involvement in our community and ELA should become an active participant in our local government. The Supervisors will consider our interests in making their decisions. I encourage you, the general membership to attend the monthly township meetings whenever possible.

Thank you for your support.

Emerald Lakes is more consistent with that of a government entity; using funds haphazardly with no regard to consequences; after all, the taxpayer will pay. And so year-after-year the board goes wanting, looking for ways to convince the membership that more money is needed to run the plant.

The process should start with an understanding that we are not in the business of providing social services. I realize that our By-Laws specifically provide for amenities and essential services. However, we have gone far beyond what is mandated and without a physical or financial plan. For example, some years ago it was decided that additional kitchen equipment was required to better serve event activities. When all was said and done, the amount and sophistication of the equipment far exceeded what was required to satisfy the IDEA. Note, not the plan but the idea. And so the thinking- "here's a facility find a use for it"- why

not a grill, a restaurant, prevailed. How do you pay for it? Dues income.

It's now time to start thinking more like a business. It's time to realize that dues income can never be raised to a level high enough to pay for the kind of services required for a growing community. It's time approach the budget process from a cost/benefit perspective. It's time to look at funding reserves from a professional point of view; identifying the equipment that is destined to be replaced, and their respective life-cycle; spreading the costs over time periods related to life-cycle analysis. I could go on and on but I think I've made the point.

Yes, Emerald Lakes does have financial problems. But if the board is willing to make some hard choices; if the board is willing to think outside the box, we will get through it. And without bleeding the membership.

Code Enforcement Status Report

As of: 15 June 2009

Building Permits:	2009	2008
1. Total Permits issued	30	68
2. House Permits:	11	27
3. Additions Permits:	1	8
4. Garage Permits:	4	4
5. Shed Permits:	7	10
6. Other Permits:	7	19

1. Total Permits in process:	1	(incomplete)
2. House Permits in process:	1	(incomplete)
3. Certificates of Compliance Issued:	2009: 5	2008: 31

	2009	2008
Total Requests:	44	57
Approved:	38	48
Contractor Requests:	12	28

Unsightly Property or other Violations		
	2009	2008
Observed or reported:	96	292
Warnings & Fines initially issued:	84	292
Follow-ups:	51	170
Fines Issued:	50	171
Backlog:	12	0
Closed:	48	265 (91%)
Sent to Attorney:	7	12
Appealed:	7	4
Hold	1	1

Total known or assumed foreclosures: 101 - 27 - sold = 74

CrimeWatch Meeting

Saturday, July 18th

9:30am at the
Community Center

Board Meeting Summary

by Carmen Brodnax

Those of you who entered the Community Center Saturday morning, July 27 were greeted with the promise of connubial bliss, as the dining room was magically and beautifully transformed for the impending wedding scheduled for later that day. It was the reason the board meeting began at 9:00 a.m. rather than its usual 9:30 a.m. However, as is too often the case with promises, expectations get raised but later peter out. The meeting could be characterized as becoming increasingly contentious and, at various times, was downright punctuated by emotional outbursts. Let us wish the newly-weds a long happy marriage and hopefully, one that won't be contaminated by the spirit of this meeting.

After the president's official opening, he asked the board to amend the agenda to add an issue under Old Business. The ensuing motion and all others presented appear in the sidebar accompanying this article. This is designed to provide the community a quick reference and better insight into how individual board members vote on issues. He also described how he obtained permission to have fireworks for the July 25th Pinetree event (See Buz Whelan's write-up on the meeting

with Tobyhanna supervisors.)

There were many new faces at this meeting participating in the open forum, as well as the regulars. David Pope, Chair of the Long Range Planning and Finance Committee cited discrepancies between the printed board summary and the actual discussion of the committee's recommendations. It should have been noted that the committee agreed to support the \$100 dues increase request, but recommended semi-annual collections to avoid cash flow problems for the Association. The recommendation also said that if the increase were passed, there would be no provision for a discount. Connie Ckonjevic and Bernic Krol wanted to know if anything is being done to collect on foreclosed properties and was assured that legal processes are underway to ensure collection. Unpaved roads was of interest to several members, mainly those whose roads are yet to paved, and Buz mentioned that if the dues increase is approved, the board will pursue the possibility of a loan



early next year. He stated that every board is faced with trying to provide more services than members are willing to pay for; which prompted this retort from David: "the Association needs to think in terms of pay-as-you-go; in other words, if members want additional services, they should pay for them. Dues money should be used to maintain infrastructure." Many members weighed in on the need for more money and wise spending.

Reggie Walter, supported by several members, wanted to know the status of the before/after school program, as he'd heard it may be eliminated. Gil Werner, general manager, indicated that he was re-evaluating its cost effectiveness based on utilization. Everyone has a different priority they feel is necessary for the betterment of the community, but as Treasurer Bob Lauri stated, "we need to

come together and figure out what needs to get done."

The board collectively explained the legal approach to collecting from non-dues payers. In response to Rob Martin's query of why dues payments are not tax write-offs, board member, Joe Olall cited pending House Bill 350, wherein there may be some future relief for private communities as it is recognized that they get little in return for their local taxes. To the members citing ongoing drug problems in their areas, it was reiterated that these are criminal matters that must be referred to the regional police. Bob Leon advised members to also get involved with their townships by attending regularly-held supervisors' meetings where issues plaguing many communities are discussed. Reverend Gyle brought up the issue of speeding and board member, Paul Cappozzoli

explained the 'speed trap program:' i.e. public safety gets permission from members to sit in their driveways to catch speeding passersby and issue summonses to them. He noted, however, that if public safety officers are tied up with traffic issues, they are not available to handle other problems and he asked for members' cooperation in reporting speeders. To Johanne Henry's complaint about unleashed dogs running wild, she was advised to contact the Game Warden, George Nixon at 7am or at 4pm, as there is a state law that dogs must be controlled by their owners at all times.

Management and Committee Reports yielded the following:

Gil requested increasing administrative costs on citations from \$5.00 to \$15.00.

A second blood drive will be held Saturday, July 11 (from 10am to 2pm), the same day as the Community Cook-Off for which volunteers are needed.

Tobyhanna Supervisors favor rezoning as requested by Pocono Manor to augment revenues to the tax base.

ELA Got Talent is being organized for those under 21, for which rehearsals will be held in August and the event, August 29th.

A lengthy and lively debate got underway regarding the proposed date change for the Annual Meeting, with members offering sometimes heated opinions on both sides of the issue, and supporting their arguments by selected passages from our by-laws and Robert's Rules. Most of the members who came out for this meeting supported changing the time or the place, but not the date based on the wording of the by-laws. It ended in a tied vote being broken by Buz Whelan, president, who approved the change from August 15 to August 22. (There are several references throughout this EN issue concerning the change.)

The meeting was adjourned just before noon.

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MEET THE Candidates

GEORGE HAAB



I was born and raised on Long Island, New York. I enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in 1950 and reported for active duty 1951 right out of high school. I went from basic airman to airman 1st class in 20 months. In 1955 I married Alice and started as a splicer's helper with N.Y. telephone. I had 3 children and went into management in 1969 and retired as an operations manager in 1990. During that time I was an active scouter and received the district award of merit, silver beaver, lamb award and the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow. I was also a volunteer firefighter and served on the training committee and as a Lt. & Capt. in the Wantagh Fire Dept.

I moved to Emerald Lakes in 1991 into a house Alice and I designed and helped build.

Why do you want to become a board member?

I would like to remain on the Board for 3 more years so we can continue to get 100% of our roads paved, improve our clubhouse facilities, and make Emerald Lakes the premier community in the Poconos.

What experiences have you had in Emerald Lakes support and governance?

What contributions have you made to the Emerald Lakes Community?

What particular contribution(s) have you made to the Board and/or community?

I have been chairman of the maintenance & security committee for many years. In 2003 I received the volunteer of the year award. In 1999 I helped adopt Long Pond road and have helped clean the road and obtained material for

our clean ups every year since. Since I became a board member I fought the censorship of our paper and made the board and work sessions more open to the public.

What event or change were you directly instrumental in bringing about in your life experience that you are most proud of? Briefly describe the role you played in this event.

I am most proud of my three children. I think the good example my wife and I set for them and the education we provided for them is the reason for their success. One is the Lutheran pastor in Slatington, PA, one owns and runs a successful restaurant in Stowe, VT and one is a registered nurse in home healthcare on Long Island.

What is the most pressing problem facing Emerald Lakes today? What contribution would you make to solve this problem?

The most pressing problem facing Emerald Lakes today is the lack of funding for the reserves fund. We also must finish the road paving I will see to it that all our funds are spent wisely.

What long range goals do you have for Emerald Lakes, and how would you assist in accomplishing them?

I would like to see all our roads paved. I would like the compactor and recycle areas paved. I would also like to see additional funding put aside to replace our administration building.

What would you like to say in support of your candidacy?

I will let my record stand on its own. I am on a fixed income but if we let Emerald Lakes deteriorate we will all be losers.

My theory in life is there is nothing in this world that cannot be improved. Let George do it!

JOSEPH O'LALL JR



I was born in Budapest, Hungary on July 21, 1971. One year later my family left the iron curtain state for the tropical destination of Guyana, South America. There I was educated under the school system of the former British colony. My family migrated to the US in the late 80's. I pursued a dual career in aeronautics and computer science. With the significant advances in technology and the dot com boom, the computer science career won out. I started my own computer consulting firm in NYC that caters to small businesses.

On October 13, 2001 I got married to Suzie Jaundoo, now a registered nurse at Lehigh Valley Hospital. We moved here in 2002 and quickly became acclimated to a lifestyle of doers.

Why do you want to become a board member?

This is my home too. I live and work here and have the same issues you have. As a board member I can act on behalf of you, serving the very best interest of the association membership.

What experiences have you had in Emerald Lakes support and governance?

I have been a board director for one year. Prior to this, I served on the Finance Committee and have been Chairman of the Maintenance Committee.

What contributions have you made to the Emerald Lakes Community?

I have attended more meetings on behalf of our community than most sitting senators in congress. My attendance allows me to report regularly on issues affecting our community. This is not an easy task when you still have to go out and earn a living, but the benefits to our community made the decision for me. My involvement as an ELA board member at this municipal level of government is a first for Emerald Lakes in recent history.

5b. What particular contribution(s) have you made to the Board and/or community?

Contribution to the Board – to report back on what is going on at the Municipal level of government, such as decisions made by supervisors, and updates to local ordinances that affect us all.

Contribution to the Community – assist in upgrading our Information Technology at the Administration building – volunteering my time to save the community the cost of hired help.

Support the events planned by the Community Center Committee.

I became a candidate for township supervisor, a first for Emerald Lakes in recent history. It would have been a great asset to have a sitting ELA board member as a township supervisor.

What event or change were you directly instrumental in bringing about in your life experience that you are most proud of? Briefly describe the role you played in this event.

I think outside the box. I initiated awareness of the benefits of using renewable energy for the average home in a private community. My home uses Solar PV and a Wind Turbine to power the electrical needs of our home. This was implemented well ahead of next year's record PPL utility increase.

What is the most pressing problem facing Emerald Lakes today? What contribution would you make to solve this problem?

The severe economic downturn has brought the most difficult and challenging times for our residents. The sharp rise in school/municipal taxes has left many households facing tough choices. Coupled with the significant reduction in revenue from sources such as building permits, which was a cash cow during the housing boom.

My contribution to help solve these issues –

By exploring other sources of revenue that are normally recession proof, such as renewable energy from Hydropower and Wind Energy. In addition, commercial billboards along Interstate 80 at Roads End (near the maintenance building and the trash compactor facility) would certainly have a positive financial impact for our community.

The Community Association Institute (CAI) is actively working to support a bill that would offer municipal tax relief to homeowners in a private community. I will continue to report to you the ongoing progress of this bill (which I support) that would in turn grant residents a real return on their citizenship in this community, a first time benefit for our residents.

What long range goals do you have for Emerald Lakes, and how would you assist in accomplishing them?

I would like to work towards implementing sources of revenue for Emerald Lakes that is outside the Association's homeowner base. With this approach, we can rely less on dues billing. Sources of revenue from Hydropower and Wind Energy can offset our energy expenses at the outdoor pool, Administration Office and the Community Center. These funds can then be directed towards road paving and maintenance.

All financial resources shall be sought to secure funding for these projects as sustainable revenue sources for Emerald Lakes. I am hoping to secure a majority of funding from philanthropic sources first, as it stands to benefit our entire community.

What would you like to say in support of your candidacy?

It has been a pleasure to work on behalf of the association membership. The past year has been a very challenging one. Nevertheless, I will continue to represent the association's members with the very best intentions. My service has always been about you, not me. I strongly believe that all directors on the board are equal and we must have the utmost respect for our By-Laws.

An educated decision is one you make. The basis for an educated decision is merely your life. Not one to take lightly. It is why I am asking that you vote for me, someone who represents and shares all your issues. Share your issue, cast your vote!

MILLIE BISHOP



I grew up in Maspeth Queens, went to Grover Cleveland High School, Married had three children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Taught religion for ten years at Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church. I am a retired, full charge bookkeeper who also worked for an accountant in Manhattan on Saturday's. I am President of the Emerald Lakes Women's Club, Secretary of the Pocono Mountain Arts Council, and chair a watercolor club in Emerald Lakes. I am also a Member of Finance and Planning and Chair the Community Rules and Regulations Committee.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER?

As this community is growing we need members on the Board who will work for our members. I would make sure all the money that is being spent is used to make improvements that would benefit our community.

WHAT EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD IN EMERALD LAKES SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE?

I have been on many committees. Volunteered my services to various community events and crime watch. Was treasurer for six and a half years and I am now President of the Emerald Lakes Women's Club. Assisted our Community Manager yearly with the election committee and monitored the election sign in sheets.

WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE YOU MADE TO THE EMERALD LAKES COMMUNITY?

I started the Halloween Tail Gate so the children could trick or treat in safety. Asked the Board to clear out the small pond near the main entrance so we could have ice skating for the children and adults. This is being done.

WHAT PARTICULAR CONTRIBUTION DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE,

IF ELECTED?

I would bring in proper management and fiscal expertise.

WHAT EVENT OR CHANGE WERE YOU DIRECTLY INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT IN YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCE THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF? BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE.

Getting married to a wonderful man, having children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. I am very proud of them all and their accomplishments. I had and have a detective, police officer, doctor, lawyer, office worker and a psychologist in my family.

THE ROLE I PLAYED IN THIS-

"well let's see" If I did not get married and have children – they nor the others would have been here.

WHAT IS THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS FACING EMERALD LAKES TODAY? WHAT CONTRIBUTION WOULD YOU MAKE TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

The lack of sufficient funding. I am on the Finance committee and we have not had a dues increase in six years. An increase is needed for this community to run properly. I would see we have the proper supervision in the handling of our money.

WHAT LONG RANGE GOALS DO YOU HAVE FOR EMERALD LAKES, AND HOW WOULD YOU ASSIST IN ACCOMPLISHING THEM?

Pave the compactor area along with the road paving; We are in need of a new Administration Bldg. or to save money we could fix up the one we have. Our Community Center is not large enough to accommodate our growing community.

I would look into putting money aside for a large addition to this building.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY IN SUPPORT OF YOUR CANDIDACY?

Over the years I have always strived by making recommendations to the Board to make this Community the best on the mountain. If I am elected, I will work for the needs of this community, listen to all complaints with an open mind, and always keep our members informed.

BARBARA DEGEORGE



I was born in Manhattan and lived almost my entire life there until I came here. I raised my two children in our apartment on West 55th St. My daughter Carol is a vice principle and my son, Joey, is a physical trainer with a little real estate sales on the side.

I worked almost exclusively for law firms, except when I had a business of my own doing accounting services. In most law firms I was the controller, responsible for all financial statements and the day-to-day financial functions of the firm. In one very large corporation, I was the CFO. That firm had 5 floors on Wall Street as its main office and offices in California, New Jersey, Miami and Detroit. I had a large department and everything was on a massive scale. I had to develop the ability to anticipate the many corporate expenses, push receivables and manage money through the peaks and valleys that always occur.

Why do you want to become a board member?

My background and expertise are in the financial area and I take a logical approach to problem solving. Believe I will be able to help, particularly in the area of finance.

What experiences have you had in Emerald Lakes support and governance?

I am a member of the Real Estate Committee, the Political Action Committee, and the Appeals Committee. I previously served a one-year term as a Board Director.

What contributions have you made to the Emerald Lakes Community?

I have contributed my time not only by serving on the above committees but I have sat in on other committees including Finance and Planning, Rules and Regulations and the Appeals Committee on which I continue to serve. I rarely miss a Board of Directors meeting. I know how things work in the community and what's going on currently. I don't need to be brought up to speed.

What particular contribution(s) have you made to the Board and/or community?

Aside from serving on the Board and the previously noted committees I have often been called on to serve on ad hoc committees and projects. I have attended Tunkannock and Tobyhanna Boards of Supervisor meetings representing Emerald Lakes' interests and voicing our concerns. As a director, I will endeavor to make the committee system more active and use their input to better solve our problems.

What event or change were you directly instrumental in bringing about in your life experience that you are most proud of? Briefly describe the role you played in this event.

I suppose the event I particularly remember is going back to college at the age of 40. My children were getting ready to go off to college and I'd always regretted not getting my degree. I also wanted the assurance; I believe children rarely achieve less education than their parents. By going back I believed that I was ensuring that they finish their educations. It was a trip, all of us in different colleges: Carol was at Iona, Joseph at Hofstra and I was at Fordham.

What is the most pressing problem facing Emerald Lakes today? What contribution would you make to solve this problem?

The most pressing problem, in my opinion, is weathering this economy; just like the rest of the country we have to make adjustments to survive. Our actions going forward should be two-pronged: we must be frugal in our spending while maximizing opportunities for new revenue sources. That means being creative in finding new ways to raise money outside of raising dues. I have a number of specific ideas in this area.

What long range goals do you have for Emerald Lakes, and how would you assist in accomplishing them?

I have a six year financial plan to bring the community up to specifications that will make us a sounder community over the next 6 years.

What would you like to say in support of your candidacy?

In supporting my candidacy, you will be placing on the board someone who has confronted financial issues for most of her life. I will be as energetic in looking after your interests as I am in dealing with my own, and I will not be deterred.

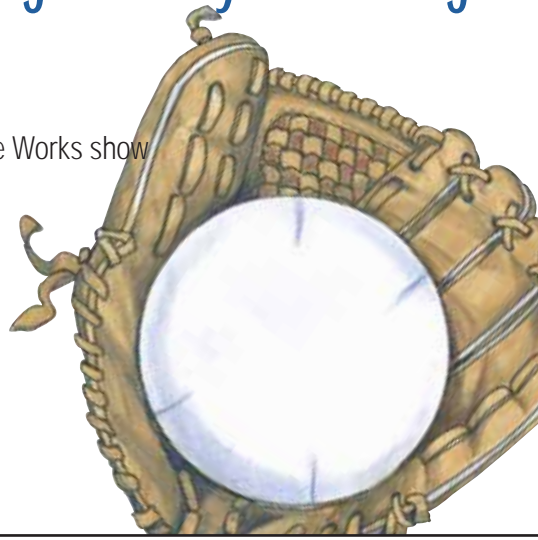
The SWB Yankees would like to cordially invite Emerald Lakes Association To the: August 7 Game vs. Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs

Pricing \$25 per Ticket

Ticket includes Scranton Wilkes-Barre Yankees Hat/
Game Admission & All you can eat Post game& Fire Works show

DEADLINE FOR SIGN UP Monday August 3, 2009
WE WILL ALSO BE ON THE FIELD
PRIOR TO THE GAME
We will meet at the Box Office at 6pm
Don't miss this exciting chance to see the
SWB Yankees

2009 Scranton Wilkes-Barre
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: 570-643-3395



Board Motions June 2009

MOTION #1 – Bill Henry made the following motion. George Haab seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves amending today's Board agenda to include Old Business – Discussion of the Annual Meeting date.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
Buz Whelan	yes	George Haab	yes
Bob Lauri	yes	Paul Capozzoli	yes
Bill Henry	yes	Al Leslie	yes
Joe O'Lall	yes		
(CARRIED) – 7-yes			

Approval of May 23, 2009 Minutes

MOTION #2 – George Haab made the following motion. Bill Henry seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the May 23, 2009 Board of Director minutes as submitted.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
Buz Whelan	yes	George Haab	yes
Bob Lauri	yes	Paul Capozzoli	yes
Bill Henry	yes	Al Leslie	yes
Joe O'Lall	yes		
(CARRIED) – 7-yes			

Increase Administrative Cost of Citations

The cost line item of citations is the Administrative cost we add to the citation. It covers the mailing and overall cost of the paper work involved when citations are issued. Presently it is set at \$5.00. Gil is recommending increasing the cost item to \$15.00. This would cover the real cost of issuing a citation.

MOTION #3 – Paul Capozzoli made the following motion. George Haab seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves increasing the basic administrative cost of citations from \$5.00 to \$15.00.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
Buz Whelan	yes	George Haab	yes
Bob Lauri	yes	Paul Capozzoli	yes
Bill Henry	yes	Al Leslie	yes
Joe O'Lall	yes		
(CARRIED) – 7-yes			

Change Annual Meeting Date

Buz reported that the Pocono Mountain West High School, where the annual meeting has been held the past several years is not available on the 3rd Saturday of August. Therefore he is requesting a motion to move the annual meeting to the 4th Saturday of August which is the 22nd.

MOTION #4 – George Haab made the following motion. Bill Henry seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves moving the annual meeting date from the 3rd Saturday in August to the 4th Saturday in August which would be 8/22/09.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
Buz Whelan	yes	George Haab	yes
Bob Lauri	yes	Paul Capozzoli	no
Bill Henry	yes	Al Leslie	no
Joe O'Lall	no		
(CARRIED) – 4-yes; 3-no			

Approve/Welcome New Members into Association by Consensus

MOTION #5 – Paul Capozzoli made the following motion. Bill Henry seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves and welcomes the new members to the Association by consensus.

ROLL CALL	VOTE	ROLL CALL	VOTE
Buz Whelan	yes	George Haab	yes
Bob Lauri	yes	Paul Capozzoli	yes
Bill Henry	yes	Al Leslie	yes
Joe O'Lall	yes		
(CARRIED) – 7-yes			



ELA BEACH VOLLEYBALL CLINIC 2009

Sponsored by ELA Recreation-570-643-3395

*WHEN: every Saturday
July 4 through August 8, 2009 (6weeks)*
WHERE: Pine Tree Beach @ Cedar & Island Drive
WHO: All Ages Welcome Co-ed
WHAT: Fundamentals of Volleyball Passing, Setting, serving, and spiking*
Basic Daily Competitions* **TIME:1 – 3 p.m. COST: FREE



Marge Dennen
Ext. 17
Barbara Timmeney
Ext 24
Office:
800-278-2177

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See you in September.

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WILL PAY CASH FOR YOUR
JUNK CAR.
570-350-0337



Fifty Plus Club

by Edie DeVito, Chairperson



Oh what a night! The celebration of our 6th anniversary at our 50's Sock Hop was a blast from the past as we rocked, rolled and lost control. Adding to the atmosphere were all those poodles and 50's memorabilia. Many thanks to Sal Pirro, Ron Smith and Ken Custred for providing the 1955 Chevy Bell Air, 1972 Chevy Nova, and 1964 Ford Galaxy convertible. What a wonderful impression and appearance this made to the entrance of our Community Center as guests entered.

Our Couple of the Year Award was presented to George & Jean Hesser. This perfect couple have always displayed their compassion toward others. That glow in their faces as they enter a room reflects their warmth and loving character. May all their dreams come true and may today hold the promises of many bright tomorrows. Congratulations!

Bob Lauri graciously presented the toast before dinner with a menu exceptionally prepared by Tom Spitz, our chef. Thanks guys.

A word of praise for our Community Center Coordinator, Ryan Culverson and his wonderful support staff. Their full cooperation was greatly appreciated throughout the preparation of this event. Those of you who were unable to attend missed a memorable evening.

The dance floor was quite active as we danced the night away to the music of Tommy Tunes playing the 50's and the Big Band era. Thanks Tommy for a job well done.

Katarina Peloubet stole the show as she beat out her mom, Karen Peloubet, Joe Shedlock and Doreen Harris in our hoola hoop contest. Our dance contest winners were Phyllis & Joe Shedlock for the Lindy; Shelly Davis for the Stroll; Stefania

Buono and Daren for the Twist; and Stan & Stella Kornfeld for the Cha Cha.

The juke box displayed at center stage was prepared by Dolores Saintil and Karen Peloubet. Many kudos for a job well done. Mickey & Minnie Mouse enjoyed the evening as they sat and watched the wild crowd in the Monte Carlo convertible on stage donated for the evening by Joe & Phyllis Shedlock. The Elvis Presley chair and back drops were also donated for the evening by Dolores Amadio. Our candy dish table centerpieces were prepared by Rosa Montalvo. Many thanks to all for contributing to our decor.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following merchants for their contribution of door prizes: ShopRite, Mr. Z's, JD Hair Cuts, Sunshine's Array of Hair, Head First Hair Designs, Casino Theatre, D.R.'s Custom Design Framing & Art Gallery, and Mark Anthony Salon. Door prizes were also donated by members of our club as well as the Emerald Grill.

Following our door prize distribution, Eric Estin and Marge McDonald were surprised as they were selected the King and Queen of the Hop. After their crowning, they danced to the tune of Graduation Day. Another wonderful couple. Congratulations!

The evening ended with a net of balloons being released from the ceiling. At that point, the poodles and saddle shoes were ready for bed.

I am sincerely grateful for all those who attended in support of our celebration and for the numerous positive telephone calls I received at home the following day. Our next scheduled get-together will be Tuesday, August 4th at 12 Noon. Come and join us. The club's hotline number is (570) 643-4243. Wishing you all a wonderful and safe summer ahead.



Lee Hollingsworth & Doreen Harris



The Peloubet Family - Totally 50's!



Stan & Stella Kornfeld



DJ Tommy Tunes



Couple of the year: George & Jean Hesser



Hula Hoop Contestants



Classics donated by Sal, Pirro (1955 Bell Air), Ron Smith (1972 Chevy Nova), Ken Custred (1964 Ford Galaxy Convertible)



Community Center Coordinator Ryan Culverson and Edie DeVito



Edie thanking the group for allowing us to park the classic vehicles in our parking lot.

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Community Center Corner



Ryan Culverson,
Community Center Coordinator
Recreation Director, Don Alvarez

Phone Number: 570-646-8118

Recreation Program Number:
570-643-3395

Visit us on line at www.elainc.org

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Wednesday: 6p.m. - 10p.m.

Thursday - 6p.m. - 10p.m. (Adults Only)

Friday - 5p.m. - 12a.m.

Saturday - 1p.m. - 12a.m.

Sunday - 1p.m. - 7p.m.

Indoor Pool:

Monday - Wednesday: 7p.m. - 9:45p.m.

Thursday: 6:30p.m. - 9:45p.m.

(Adults Only)

Friday: 5p.m. - 9:45p.m.

Saturday: 1p.m. - 9:45p.m.

Sunday: 1p.m. - 6:45p.m.

Outdoor Pool & Hours:

Monday to Sunday - 11am - 6pm

Thursdays - 11am - 8pm

Computer Lab Hours

Mon. - Fri. 9a.m. - 11a.m.

and 6p.m. - 9:45p.m.

Saturday 1p.m. - 9:45p.m.

Sunday 1p.m. - 7p.m.

Emerald Grill:

Monday & Wednesday: 6p.m. - 9p.m. (Grill Menu)

Wednesday is "Wing Night"!

Friday: 5p.m. - 9:00p.m. (Full menu)

Grill Menu till 10p.m.

Saturday: 5p.m. - 9:00p.m. (Full menu)

Grill till 10p.m.

Sunday: 1p.m. - 6p.m.

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE WHEN THE GRILL IS OPEN!

Bar:

Monday & Wednesday: 6p.m. - 10p.m.

Friday: 5p.m. - 12a.m.

(Happy Hour from 8-9p.m.)

Saturday: 5p.m. - 12a.m.

(Happy Hour 5-6p.m.)

Sunday: 1p.m. - 7p.m.

Recreation Program Activities:

Before & After School Program

Sept. to June - 7a.m. - Bus Pick Up

Dismissal - 6p.m.

Teen Focus Group

Tuesday & Thursday - Dismissal 5:30p.m.

Mommy & Me- Monday 11:00a.m.

Swim Team Practice:

Monday - Thursday 5p.m. -

Adult Water Aerobics

High Impact: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30a.m. - 10:30a.m.

Low Impact: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30a.m. - 10:30a.m.

Bingo

Most Saturday Evenings 7:30 p.m.

Friday Night Dance Party

Every Friday Night from 9p.m. - Close

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CURFEW FOR THOSE UNDER 18 IS 10P.m.!!!

A Note from the Community Center Coordinator



by Ryan Culverson

On June 6th the Emerald Lakes "Fifty Plus Club" took the Community Center back to the 1950's for a dynamite Sock Hop. The Center was transformed into a 50's themed atmosphere with both décor and menu choices. The Emerald Grill Cook, Tom Spitz, prepared a fantastic meal. The menu choices that were prepared were very popular dishes dating back to the 50's. While Elvis Presley memorabilia draped the walls of the dance floor and records hung from the ceiling, the likes of Frank Sinatra, Little Richard, The Beach Boys, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly and many other 50's music artists kept the rhythm and spirit alive with their sounds from the fifties epoch.

This was the first year that the Fifty Plus Club opened their year-end cel-

ebration for the entire community to take part, and for that we are grateful. Edie DeVito, President of the club, decided to switch things up a bit and try a "Sock Hop" for all to attend. The "Sock Hop" was well attended, bringing approximately 100 members to the center for great food, fun and dance.

The community center staff, committee and Fifty Plus volunteers met early Saturday morning to begin transforming the center. As the members rolled in that evening, 50's classic vehicles were parked near the entrance of the center. As you will see from the photos these classics were beautiful and really helped capture the night's theme. I want to personally thank Sal Pirro (owner of 1955 Bell Air), Ron Smith (owner of 1972 Chevy Nova, and Ken Custred (owner of 1964 Ford Galaxy Convertible). The cars definitely enhanced our Sock Hop experience. It was greatly appreciated.

There were many activities throughout the evening that were planned for

members of all ages. One that must not go unmentioned was the ever famous "hula hoop" contest. The winner was Katarina Peloubet. In addition, we crowned a Queen and King of the Sock Hop. Crowned were Queen Marge McDonald and King Eric Estan. The two wore their crowns gracefully and I look forward to see who will be passed the crowns for 2010.

All and all the event was a great success. I would personally like to thank the staff, 50 Plus Club, Community Center Committee and members in attendance for a wonderful evening. I thank you for your time and efforts.

In closing I want to remind you all that the outdoor pool and Snack Shack are open for business! I am excited to begin a summer with the ELA community and can't wait for you to check out the new items we have to offer at the Snack Shack. Please remember to bring your badges to the pool so that you may utilize the outdoor pool and bring the family and friends for a great summer season!

It's Western Night!

DATE: SAT. SEPTEMBER 19TH @ 7PM

LOCATION: EMERALD BAR & GRILL

COME AND HAVE A HEE-HAW NIGHT WITH US!

LINE DANCING AND COUNTRY STYLE MENU!

DON'T FORGET YOUR COWBOY/COWGIRL HATS AND BOOTS!

WE'LL HAVE A RODEO OF A TIME!

**We present to you
Motown Night!**

Date & Time: Fri. August 14th @ 7pm

Location: Emerald Lakes Bar & Grill

Soulful music & food for the soul!

Come join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Motown as our DJ plays the hits of your favorite artists at Motown Night!

*Stop by the Community Center today and sign up to reserve your seat

Hittville, U.S.A.

MOTOWN 50

Community Center Events

June

7/17 - Latin Night

7/25 - Family Day Block Party - Pinetree Beach

August

8/1 - Luau at Pine Tree Beach

8/8 - Women's Club Fashion Show Fundraiser

8/14 - Motown Night

8/29 - Emerald Lakes Got Talent

September

9/19 - Western Night

June/July 2009 Emerald Lakes Grill Specials

All specials are served with your choice of soup or salad. Please ask your server for the soup of the day.

July 17 - Latin Night! \$9.95

Roasted Pork

Arroz con Frijoles (white rice w/black beans)
Arroz con Gandules (yellow rice w/pigeon peas)
Carne Guisada (Spanish beef stew)
Maduros (Sweet Fried Plantains)

July 18, 19 - Steamed Clams over

Linguine & White Clam Sauce 11.95

Enjoy a dozen of our mouth watering clams over a bed of linguine and our very own clam sauce.

Chicken Francaise 11.95

Our cutlets are tossed in our seasoned flour. Hand dipped and sautéed to perfection. Topped with our very own francaise sauce. Served with Chef's choice of vegetable and choice of rice.

July 24, 25, 26

Seafood Special over Linguine 11.95

Our dish is freshly made with fresh crab and shrimp in a white sauce. Served over a bed of linguine. Served with fresh garlic bread.

Stuffed Roasted Pork Loin 11.95

Stuffed with our homemade stuffing. You will enjoy our seasoned and slow oven roasted pork loin.

Topped with our house made savory pork gravy. Served with our Chef's choice of vegetable and your choice of potatoes

July 31, Aug 1, 2

½ Rack BBQ. Ribs 9.95

Full Rack BBQ. Ribs 13.95

Our mouth watering Ribs are slow cooked in our special BBQ. sauce. . Served with our Chef's choice of vegetable and your choice of potatoes

Chicken Cordon Bleu 9.95

Stuffed with ham, and swiss cheese. Served with our Chef's choice of vegetable and your choice of potatoes

Aug 7, 8, 9

Honey Stung Fried Chicken 8.95

Four piece chicken deep fried to a nice golden brown.

Served with a side of French fries

Jumbo Stuffed Shells 9.95

You will enjoy a large serving of our jumbo shells, stuffed with ricotta, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. Served over spaghetti with your choice of, alfredo or vodka sauce.

Introducing Your Community Center Team:

By Ryan Culverson

Cathy Leach, Maintenance staff member for Emerald Lakes Community Center, has been employed with the association for nearly 12 years. Though many of you may not see Cathy often she is very much a part of the Community Center Team, and a vital

one at that. Cathy begins her day at approximately 5:00am to ensure that the center is sparkling ready for members to utilize. Most of Cathy's working day is complete by the time the rest of the team enter the doors. Cathy is one of the many employees that has worn many hats within her employ. She began as a volunteer some years ago, then moved to the Administration office to answer phones. Shortly thereafter she worked as a Front Desk Clerk at the Community Center and is presently a Maintenance staff employee.

Cathy and her family have been very involved within their 16 year residency in Emerald Lakes. Her late husband, Bob, was a prior Board member, volunteered many hours of his time and is responsible for starting Bingo at the Community Center. He even received an award of appreciation for all his



dedicated time to bingo.

During my interview with Cathy, I asked her what she liked most about working for Emerald Lakes. She responded "I love both my supervisors and the fellow employees that I work with. I then asked Cathy what positive change she would like to see made within Emerald Lakes. She responded, "To have more money be spent on restoration of maintenance staff equipment."

Cathy works very hard and I take pride in the fact that she is a community center employee. It's not often that she is recognized (due to working "off" hours when the center is not utilized) and I want her to know how much I appreciate all she does for the community. Cathy, it is a pleasure and I appreciate you and how hard you work keeping the Community Center clean.

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ELA RECREATION PROGRAM

By Don Alvarez



The Emerald Lakes Recreation Program hosted our 4th Annual Golf Tournament which took place at Mountain Laurel Golf Club on

June 22, 2009. The event was a huge success. The weather finally cleared up and it was a beautiful day. All the golfers came out in great spirits and enjoyed the day. Thanks to Mountain Laurel Golf Club for opening its facility for this worthy occasion. We would also like to thank Bobby Thompson, Diane Pesch, Ryan Culverson and Chris Tarvin who assisted us in making sure all the golfers had what they needed. Fantastic job team! Appreciation goes out to all our sponsors, American Hardware True Value Just Ask Rental, Ed's Auto, Banko, Golf World, Dempsey, Fred Spott & Associates, George Hludzik, Esq., Giacalone Chiropractic, JMF Computer Svc, Jack Williams, Heller's Gas, Pippino's Pizzeria & Deli, Ray Price Ford, Resorts Beverage State Rep. Mike Carroll Strand Pools Zavada

& Associates Last but not least the brave Golfers who participated without you there would be no event. You have made a difference in the community and the lives of our youth. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You..... We look forward to having everyone who participated this year and those who missed out on all the fun to join us for our next Golf Outing in June 2010.

Pocono Mountain School District ended classes for the year on June 16 & 17, 2009. This meant it was time for our end of the school year Pizza Party at the Emerald Grill. We served 25 pies to over 65 excited youth and parents. It was all smiles from all ages 5 and up as everyone gobbled up the delicious pizza. There was not an empty belly on either of these two days. After pizza our youth played football, basketball, capture the flag, utilized the computer lab and many other games at the community center playground. Truly a fun filled day. To all the parents and staff who brought their children by and helped in serving pizza and soda we would like to express our gratitude.

Emerald Lakes Recreation Pro-

gram is proud to bring to you our 4th Annual Summer Camp. Our camp started Wednesday June 17th and will end on Friday August 7th. The hours of operation are from 7am-6pm full day program or our half day program from 9am-3pm. Camp will be held at Emerald Lakes Community Center which features our fabulous indoor pool, game room, playground, open field, tennis court, and basketball court and other multipurpose rooms. We have many activities planned for our youth to enjoy. We ask that you send your child(ren) with lunch and snack every day. Register your children for a fun filled summer.

On August 7th we will be going to see the Scranton Wiles-Barre Yankees. Our outing will include Admission, SWB Yankees Hat, all you can eat, a PNC Field Tour a chance to sit in the SWB Yankee Dugout and a after the game fireworks show. Tickets will be \$25 per person.

Look at the flyer in the paper for more details.

There are some upcoming dates to remember July 25th brings us our Summer Bash BBQ packed with music, food, fireworks, obstacle course, dunk tank and much



End of school pizza party

much more. So come on out and enjoy the festivities.

ELA REC would also like to thank everyone for all the hard work they have done for the recreation program. The support we get matters and helps the Emerald Lakes Recreation Program run smoothly. Thank you for taking part in what we do to make a difference in our community and you are truly appreciated. So thank you all.

Please look out for the flyers that will be posted around the community, on our website www.elainc.org and in our newsletter to let you know what is coming up. If you have any questions about our programs contact us at 643-3395. Again thank you for everyone who has put time in to make all of our programs successful.

Swim Team News: Working with Tomorrows Leaders

By Coach Darin Schaedel

We have been working hard to develop and standardize a measurable program to maximize our swimmers' techniques within the parameters of the Emerald Lakes pool, building enough flexibility and stamina to carry them in larger pools when necessary. This has been accomplished through a rigorous program of daily drills. Our core swimmers, most of whom have worked together for the last three years rarely miss a practice any time of the year, unless for good reason. Most learned to swim right here in this pool. They are our elite swimmers and the children who continue to perfect

their strokes and to build speed. By any measure they deserve to be called first-class athletes. They practice everyday striving to master the slightest nuances that will advance their competitive edge. It's this core of swimmers that are qualifying for the AAU Junior Olympics to be held the first week of August in Des Moines, Iowa.

Although members of the Emerald Lakes community, the board and management will only support them to swim under the team name, Emerald Lakes Pirates, in local meets. Parents, therefore, established a non-profit corporation under which their athletes can compete as a sponsored team on

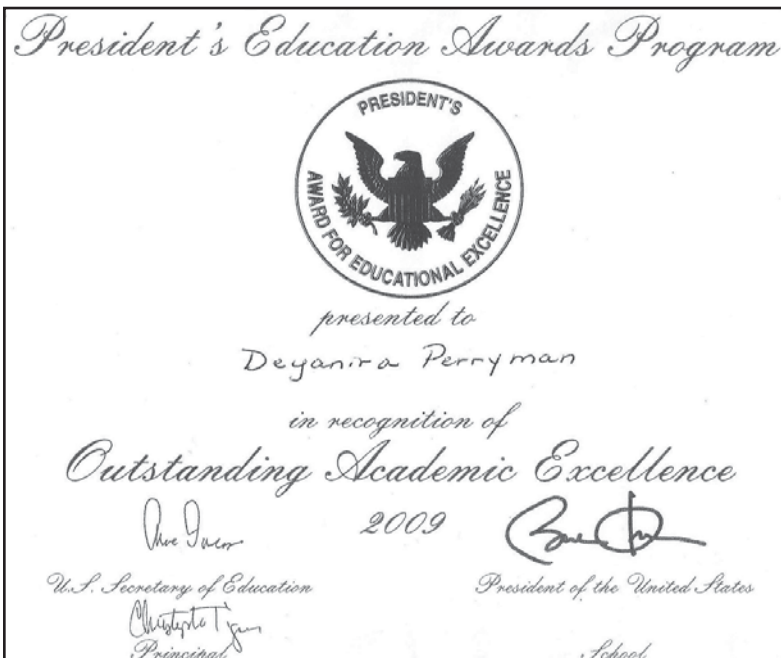
a national level. These are the team members who also devote their time and energy to working with and teaching new swimmers, some as young as three years of age. The core swimmers are learning not only how to safely teach others, but how to manage different age groups; work with different personalities (some with attention deficit disorders); and how to act responsibly in different situations; in other words, they are learning to be the leaders of the future. The core group includes Martin Bohdan, Robert Collazo, Amanda and Steven Davanzo, Norbert Kaminski, Robert Pifer, Brayan Winiaz, and Nick Zangwill.

Our swimmers are no slouches when it comes to academics either. On June 17, I attended the Moving Up Ceremony of four of our swimmers, Ioannis Antzoulis, Robbie Collazo, Patricia Milewski (who earned the Distinguished Honors Award), and Nicholas Vargas. Fourteen-year old, Laleta Teajman, who is going to the ninth grade at West Junior High School was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. She will be representing the Pocono Mountain School District for four days in Harrisburg for the National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC) where she will receive a crash course in leadership and academic achievement skills.

Laleta's team mate, Deyanira Perryman (Ani) just graduated Monsignor McHugh School with a 97.5 gpa, earning a four-year scholarship to Scranton Prep. Ani received the 2009 President's Award for Education Excellence (signed by President Barack Obama, the U.S. Secretary of Education and her principal) and she also will be an NYLSC participant. All of these team members deserve the recognition and support of the community, as they represent some of the finest examples of what today's

youth can accomplish with focus, direction, commitment, and belief in their abilities. They serve as role models for others and it is a pleasure to work with them.

We expect to have a lot of fun-filled days in July (weather permitting), as the children of the surrounding communities race one another through our newly formed Mountain View Swim League. EL members are invited to come out and cheer us on. Wish us luck and have a wonderful summer all.



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Eileen Avrich and Nancy Pitcher represented the women of Emerald Lakes.



Gene Davis, Al Schipps, Joe Fisch and John Belly discuss who hit the best shot in our 4-man scramble golf tournament.



2009 ELA Golf Tournament participants.

3rd Annual Emerald Lakes Recreation Program Golf Outing

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Thank You

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff of Emerald Lakes Association and myself I would like to thank the corporate sponsors, business contributors, players, and volunteers who helped make our 3rd Annual ELA Recreation Program Golf Outing, at Mountain Laurel Golf Club, a big success. Over \$1,100 was raised to support the programs for our kids, which include educational, cultural, social and character building. Our forever goal is to help them become successful adults.

Sincerely,

Don Alvarez

Emerald Lakes Director of Recreation
Golf Tournament Administrator

Golfers

Without you this would not have been possible.

Lee Hollingsworth

Phil Botti

Carney Pertillo

Roy Bishop

John Avrich

Gil Werner

Rich Weigel

Nancy Picther

Al Schips

Jean Davis

John Belly

Joe Fisch

Aiden Kenny

Tom Parisi

Tim Sullivan

Marc Schonbaun

Don Grey

Bernie Suttake

Alan Grossberg

Jay Robertson

Al Lieslie

Earl Burnell

Rich Deperro

Eileen Avrich

Ronnie Martin

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For your hard work, time and dedication.

Ryan Culverson
Chris Tarvin

Mountain Laurel Golf Club

For making sure our event ran so smoothly. We appreciate you.



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**Emerald Lakes Family Day
Block Party!**

Location: Pine Tree Beach

Date & Time: Sat. July 25th at 12pm

Let's take our block party to Pine Tree!

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Food and beverages will be available for purchase

Enough activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Bring your life vests if you want to enjoy a boat ride!

FIREWORKS begin at dusk!

Emerald Lakes Women's Club

Congratulations scholarship recipient kurt boling.
 This years five hundred dollar (\$500.00) Scholarship went to Kurt Boling a graduate from Pocono Mountain High School West. He has received many awards for his scholastic achievements and his goal is to be a high school teacher. Kurt will be attending Temple University in the fall. He lives in emerald lakes with his proud parents Roger and Irene Boling and his sister Alexandria. The Emerald Lakes Women's Club wish him good luck. He should be proud of his achievements as they will help him Fulfill his dreams.

Submitted by:
Millie bishop, President of the ELWC



Emerald Lakes Women's club Presents a Fashion Show

Tickets are \$20.00 Per person
 This is a scholarship fundraiser, that benefits a graduating student living in our community go to college. Show your support come join the fun all fashions will come from Jones New York.

The fashion show is: Saturday, August 8th, at 1:00pm at our Community Center.

A delicious lunch will be served. A choice of shrimp scampi or Flamed chicken with mushrooms, salad, rolls, cake, tea and coffee.

Tickets are available at our community center.

Submitted by:
Millie bishop, President of the elwc



LATIN NIGHT at Emerald Lakes

Date: Friday, July 17th

Location: Emerald Lakes Bar & Grill

The highly anticipated, highly recommended Latin Night!

Come join us for an extraordinary night full of

Latin food and Latin sounds!

Reservations are a MUST to ensure you get a seat!

Please stop by the Community Center and sign up for Latin Night.



EMERALD LAKES LUAU

When: Saturday, August 1st
Where: Pine Tree Beach
Time: 5pm-10pm

We'd like to cordially invite all of you to the 1st Emerald Lakes Luau!!

It's too expensive to go to Hawaii so we are bringing Hawaii to you!

Wear your grass skirts, Hawaiian shirts and come join everyone for the look and feel of Hawaii!

Who can hula dance the best? Well, join us and find out!

A true authentic Hawaiian feast for all!

Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available to purchase.

Please sign up in advance @ the Community Center today!

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Emerald Lakes Fishing and Conservation Club

Catch & release tips and tactics

By Joe Miller

The Emerald Lakes Association with the help of several ELF&CC Members stocked Bass in three of our Lakes during the end of May. These fish are catch and release only. Please refer to the signs posted by ELA at various access points to the Lakes in our Community. In order for this to become a success, it will take the help and support of the whole community. The following are excerpts from an article that I read on www.recycledfish.org which is very helpful to make a catch and release program successful.

As anglers, nobody understands our lakes or has a greater passion for them than us. It's our unique understanding and our unique passion that positions us to be leaders in living a lifestyle of stewardship. It is critical that we work together for a common good. Don't feel cheated because "that guy over there gets to keep all his fish," or "your neighbor fertilizes his lawn and waters like crazy, so why can't I?" Instead, be proud that you made the noble choice to live as a steward, and when your lifestyle runs downstream, it won't be killing the fish. Maybe "that guy over there" will pick up on what you're doing and change his ways. Maybe he won't, but by you choosing not to match his consumptive behavior, we reduce our total impact!

Basically, good Catch and Release practices come down to keeping the fish's best interest at heart. After all, if you're going to release the

fish, you want to know it has its best chance of survival, right? These tips will help. Learn them, practice them all the time, and share them with others. You'll be doing your part to maintain our healthy fisheries and help restore those that are suffering!

Choose your tackle wisely

The right size hooks and line strength for the fish you are going to target is a good place to start. If you intend to release your fish, remember that fish caught on flies or lures with single hooks have the best chance of survival. If possible to do so, replace treble hooks with single hooks. If you're fishing with bait, get rid of your conventional hooks and start using circle hooks. Circle hooks have been around since the turn of the century, but they're getting a recent revival in the recreational angling community. It's rare to gut-hook a fish using one, they virtually always hook the fish in the

corner of the mouth - and they're super effective. If you decide to fish with bait and conventional hooks, set the hook quickly to avoid deeply hooking fish. Deeply hooked fish have a good chance of fatally tearing internal organs while you are landing them.

Pinch down the barbs on all of your hooks

Barbless hooks allow for a much easier and quicker release of your fish, with less damage to the fish's mouth. You can use pliers to pinch down the barbs on your hooks or you can carefully file them off of large hooks. You'll be surprised how few fish you lose using barbless hooks compared to the number you lost while using barbed hooks. Nearly every angler who fishes often for very long hooks him or herself at some point. At that moment, you'll either thank yourself for removing the barb or kick yourself for not!

Don't fight your fish any longer than necessary

Purposely allowing your battle with a fish to continue when it's not necessary places undue strain on the fish. Exhausted fish often swim away, but die days later because of lactic acid that builds up in their system. The longer they fight, the more toxic lactic acid that builds up. This means you should use the proper line test strength for the fish you intend to catch, and land your fish swiftly, but not carelessly - after all, the point is to land the fish!

Keep the fish in the water

Don't lift fish out of the water - don't even touch the fish if you don't have to. Many fish can be released without ever touching them. Just bend over, remove the hook with your hand or with pliers, and let the fish swim away. Research has shown that keeping a fish in the water dramatically increases its chances of survival. Think of it - after the fight of your life, say going 12 rounds in a boxing ring or running a marathon, imagine having your air cut off! That's exactly what we do when we lift fish from the water. Fish kept out of the water for more than one minute have a greatly diminished chance of survival, once a fish has been out of the water for three minutes, it has virtually no chance of survival, even if it swims away.

Keep your hands wet when handling fish

If you do handle a fish, and you do it with dry hands, it can cause some of the protective coating ("slime") on the fish's skin to come off. This coating is designed to protect fish from disease. Wet hands reduce this risk and can actually make it a little easier to handle your catch. Some anglers prefer soft wet gloves.

Large predatory fish (including bass) shouldn't be lifted out of the water vertically by the jaw or gill plate. The weight of the viscera of large fish is sufficient to tear internal connective tissue. The connective tissue does not grow in nature to resist gravity in this direction. Lunkers (including bass, catfish, muskies and northern pike, salmon and trout to name a few) should be landed in a net or with one hand supporting the belly if optimal health after release is a consideration.

This 'n That Signs of Austerity

By Carmen Brodnax

At first I thought it was my imagination; but I later realized that what I thought I was seeing, I actually saw: a rash of new signs and symbols popping up over the last few months throughout the community. I mean literally, professional signage for everything... banners for Dad's Day? It makes me wonder, could there possibly have been a fire sale that I missed? I realize summer's coming, so maybe it's a thoughtful and proactive gesture to tell drivers to "Watch Children," since we do have a higher population community-wide. (Okay there are no kids on my road; do I really need two signs?) But then I happened to pass other new signs that told me I was in a private community, e.g. passing East Emerald Lakes, etc. (Living here for over twenty five years, and I now have new signs to tell me where I am.) I later came across another set of three telling me I was at Mountain Top Lake, (where I walked when there was no water), as well as the rules for the catch and release program. In Emerald Lakes, you see, we recently stocked our lakes (... fish a jumpin' and the grass is high...).

I'm ashamed to admit that it took me a couple of seconds to figure out why all the beautiful bows adorning the community... Memorial Day, of course, idiot! Like many others, I have enjoyed the fun events regularly occurring at the clubhouse - always festively decorated and creatively styled for each occasion, along with a well-appointed menu, plus a live dj that spins great music - all for a nominal cost to members.

HEY, wait a minute: is it really a nominal cost? Who really is paying for all this: the abundance of food, the decorations, the great chef, extra wait staff, and the live dj? I hear that drink revenues have increased significantly, but enough to cover expenses; enough to cover all the recent cosmetic changes?

It is not an uncommon practice among corporate managers to spend down money on niceties before the fiscal year ended, so that they could not only match their previous year's budget, but increase it for the next year. That's how managers inflate costs and build fiefdoms.

I can't begin to speculate how a modest-sized community such as Emerald Lakes could possibly justify spending \$ 1/2 million dollars in salaries for mostly part-time workers. Why won't Emerald Lakes publish a current organization chart so that members can see how many people actually work here and what they get paid to do? We can't even seem to get employee name tags. How are members to get a handle on how management is managing and who? The bottom line is no matter what the expenditure - it's you and me, the tax...oops, I mean, the members that are paying the dues. Have I really been reading lately that we need a \$100 dues increase per lot because there hasn't been an increase in six years, and that we don't have enough money in our reserves fund?? That well may be, but it appears that more thinking went into how to collect it (monthly or quarterly) than in making the case for why it's needed.

When I sit down at my kitchen

table to count my pennies and figure out my budget, I first separate what I need from what I want. Before any expenditure, I ask, "do I really need it? Can I afford it?" If I deem it to be necessary, "how can I pay for it?" Even if I just saw the greatest pair of shoes, I say, "yes those shoes would match perfectly that zebra-print dress that's been hanging in my closet the last five years, but do I really need them right now?" Everyone needs to ask fundamental questions before spending money, particularly when there isn't enough to get the things needed done. We must set goals, establish priorities, and devise plans to meet those goals.

Many Americans continue to question escalating budgets and the spending by congress, the president, and other elected officials. Let's face it, there can be valid times to spend like a drunken sailor such as when the private sector gets so greedy that it leverages itself into a black hole, thereby requiring taxpayer bailouts, not only for companies but whole

industries; when liquidity in the economy freezes; when money does not flow, credit dries up and the whole economy is threatened. Then bailouts and stimulus packages become useful tools. Taxpayers' dollars and loans from the Federal Reserve Bank help bring liquidity back into the marketplace, help to get things done, and help stabilize the economy.

However, when spending other people's money, prudence and due diligence must be demonstrated. If it's efficient to borrow to get things done, then borrow; dedicate the money's use; define how it's to be repaid; and stick to it. If there is going to be a request to increase revenues (dues), then the need has to be defined and make sense. It's easy to have parties and make lots of little cosmetic changes (which by the way do \$ add up), but remember Rome burned while Nero fiddled. It's much harder to show vision, plan wisely, and manage a growing community.

Home Cooking

by Eileen Avrich (Guest contributor Buz Whelan)

Fast 'n' Fun: English Muffin Pizza-ettes

This is much more an idea than a recipe. It's for those times when you want something everyone will like but don't want a lot of work, mess or clean-up. And it's cheap, too.

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs ground beef
10 oz spaghetti sauce
8 oz part-skim mozzarella
4 Sandwich-size English muffins

Method:

In a 10 to 12 inch skillet brown ground beef. Drain off excess fat. Add your favorite spaghetti sauce (I doctor up a commercial sauce a little) until meat is well soaked. Simmer slowly for about 15 minutes or so to allow flavors to blend. Lightly toast the English muffins (do not brown). Top each muffin with meat-sauce mixture and then top that with a slice of mozzarella. Brown under broiler or heat in microwave to melt cheese.

Serve with a side salad.



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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be limited to approximately 300 words. Any subject that affects or interests community members is appropriate. Libelous material or offensive language will be refused. Criticism of this paper, the community or particular officers and management personnel is acceptable within the aforementioned restrictions.

Dear Editor

Regarding the board meeting of 6/27 and the issue of when and where to hold the annual meeting, I have some questions and some concerns I would like to put forth. Apparently, the Pocono Mountain West High School is not available for the date and times needed,

so the board must choose to either move the date of the meeting or move the location of the meeting and keep the original date.

If, as Mr. Olall suggests, there is no provision whatsoever for moving the meeting to another date, what would happen if no location at all could be found? Would

we then be forced to hold the meeting outdoors in the parking lot in order to align with the by-laws? Obviously, the drafters of this document did foresee the possibility of the meeting being held at another time since they also included a provision for the membership to call their own meeting if the board does not within 60

days.

The fact that there is nothing in the documents to explain what does and does not constitute a suitable venue, and nothing that describes what reasons a meeting may have to be moved suggests that they believed it would be the board's responsibility to determine what is best for the community.

The question now becomes which will better serve the community? Please consider these points in making this decision:

If the location is changed and a voter for one reason or

another becomes confused, or did not get the message and shows up at PMWHS on August 15th, he or she will miss the vote completely and will not be heard on the important issues of the day.

However, if the date only is changed, this same voter who shows up on August 15th will have a week to find out what has happened and still be able to vote in this election.

Michelle Goldman

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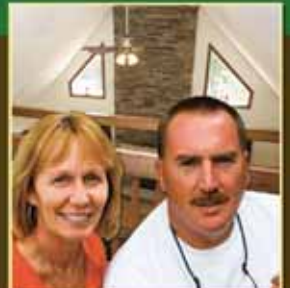
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Editorial

The recent contretemps over the date and the location of the Annual Meeting exposed a glaring weakness in the by-laws. They state that the Annual Meeting shall be held on the third Saturday of August... Our attorney who represents and has represented over 30 associations tells us he has never seen such a rigid requirement. Fortunately, the following sentence gave us the room for another interpretation, but we are advised by counsel to change the wording to 'on or about' as discussed elsewhere in this issue.

If that were the only problem in the by-laws, we'd be fine with them. But there are quite a few other areas where the wording or requirements do not correspond to the needs of our community as it is presently constituted. The article on committees, for example, requires us to have a campgrounds committee. Why would we want that today? We are also required to have a separate nominations and elections committee. These two committees have responsibilities so similar that they fold one into the other. And with the two, each would exist for six weeks or less per year. Why not have a Nominations and

Election Committee?

We are also required by the by-laws to pay all taxes and assessments levied or assessed against any property of the Association... Yet the Real Estate Committee has recommended on many occasions that taxes owed on non-buildable property or wetland be allowed to lapse into repository since there is no advantage in owning them. There are other examples of items that should at least be considered for change. Members may pore over the document themselves and find things they think are outdated and weigh in with their own suggestions.

One of the most controversial laws is the requirement that any change be made only with a 2/3 majority of those voting. This particular rule was put in when the by-laws were last revised in 2000. Bob Hargrove, as dedicated a public servant as Emerald Lakes has ever had, was the

force behind that rule. Previously, a simple majority was sufficient. In later times Bob admitted to close friend Bill Henry that this was his biggest mistake, that he wished he had never suggested it. But many current members like the idea that change is extremely difficult because of this requirement.

This won't be a quick and easy task. It will take a group of dedicated members knowledgeable about community operations and Pennsylvania Act 180 regulations long hours to reach a point where they can bring revisions to the membership. A special meeting may be necessary. But the thing to remember about the by-laws is that they are meant to serve the needs of the community. They were not handed down from God. Members created them and members should not be afraid to make adjustments as time and changed circumstances require. After all, the Constitution of the United States has been amended 28 times.

Guidelines for Submissions

News and Feature:

Submissions of news and feature reporting will be judged by normal journalistic standards. We reserve the right to edit for content, quality and length. Any community activity or news occurrence may be covered.

All pictures must be accompanied by caption information. This information must tell the viewer more than s/he can see by merely observing the picture. Persons who are central figures must be identified by name and by title where appropriate.

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Emerald News Policy/Mission Statement

As a community newspaper the need to inform and entertain is the Emerald News' reason for being. Our mission is to provide the best and most comprehensive coverage of community news events as our resources allow. We are also charged

with publicizing social and athletic events and reporting on these events after the fact. We serve as a conduit for information between community management and members. We provide a "Letters to the Editor" section so that a forum exists for the inter-

change of ideas and for feedback from members on management decisions and actions, and further, for the informal reporting of observed events by members. Lastly, we hope to amuse and entertain our readers.



The Official Communication of the
Emerald Lakes Association, Inc.

Publishing and Advertising:
JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS of PA, INC.
211 Main Street
White Haven, PA 18661
(570) 443-8321
journalnews@pa.metrocast.net
Publishers of community association newsletters, as well as the Journal of the Pocono Plateau, News of The Poconos and other newspapers.

Published for:
EMERALD LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC.,
1 Glade Drive, Long Pond PA 18334
(570) 646-2622

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The Emerald News serves the property owners and residents of Emerald Lakes. It is published twelve times annually by Journal Newspapers, Inc. for the Emerald Lakes Association, under the directorship of the Communications Committee.

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WHIRLED GNUS

Volume 2 Issue 9

July 2009

Jackson Death Trumps Farrah

EVERYWHERE, United States (FNS) The long-expected death of Farrah Fawcett was suddenly and mercilessly torn from the headlines when Michael Jackson unexpectedly dropped dead on June 25th, just hours after Farrah's passing. National magazines and newspapers across the nation, especially tabloids, had long planned for Farrah covers to mark her death. All switched gears rapidly in neck-jerking lurches to go as near to all-

Michael as possible. The New York Daily News, for example, had planned to run the iconic 70s poster on its page one. With the Jackson death, Farrah's obit was summarily relegated to page 18, a huge come down for the one time supermarket tabloid favorite.

Many entertainment industry insiders say this could be a clever ploy by the Jackson camp to bolster sagging cd sales. "Michael has always been ahead of the curve," said

agent Moe Sugar. "This is a shrewd and calculated move. He's sold more cds and downloads in the two weeks since his death than in the two years before."

Jackson wouldn't be the first show biz star to benefit from death. In what turned out to be an incredibly beneficial career move, Elvis sold more music after death than before. Even with movie making out of the picture, Elvis' estate grew ten times while he lay in repose. It

should also be noted that virtually every artist of any stature had their work soar in value after death. When Van Gogh was alive he was lucky to get the price of a good dinner for

an oil. Try buying one today.

So, did Michael Jackson plan his own death for monetary reasons? Only those in his innermost circle know for sure, and they're not talking.



Lake Shark Scare at Pine Tree Beach

EMERALD LAKES, Pennsylvania (FNS) A new lake shark scare has hit the beach at Pine Tree Lake. New residents Philip and Elizabeth Windsor report that while swimming just off the beach on Saturday, June 27th they were menaced by a large lake shark and barely escaped by swimming frantically and then running from the water. While they did not actually see the shark the couple was alerted to its presence by long-time residents Joe D. Kidder and his wife Ima. "We were just enjoying the water,

swimming, paddling and floating lazily when the Kidders began shouting, 'Shark! Shark!' reports Phil Windsor. "If it weren't for them, who knows what would have happened to us. We could've been eaten. I get shivers just thinking about it. We owe the Kidders our lives." Whirled Gnus attempted to obtain a comment from the Kidders. When we called a male responded that he was Joe, but when we asked about the incident he simply laughed and hung up.

For reasons as yet unknown

to marine biologists, lake sharks typically attack new residents and first-time bathers. Old timers don't seem to worry about their presence and feel immune to attacks. But they caution new swimmers to beware the dangerous maneaters and warn them to be extremely vigilant at all times. Says 30 year resident Joe Kerr, "Lake sharks are so dangerous because you never see them coming. One minute you're swimming peacefully, then suddenly 'chomp!' and you're gone. There's no warning."

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The Quiz Wizard

With Obama's recent middle-East trip putting Palestine back in the news we thought it might be fun to test your knowledge of that country. (answers next month)

- What year was the nation of Palestine founded?
- Who was its first head of state?
- What is the Palestinian unit of currency?
- What UN member nations have diplomatic relations with Palestine?
- What do the Palestine National Bank, the University of Palestine, whale teeth and chicken lips have in common?

Whirled Gnus Disclaimer

The contents of this page are the creation of Buz Whelan. They reflect his sense of humor. They are in no way to be construed as opinion of the Executive Board or the Emerald Lakes Association, nor are they approved by the Board.

Okay, Denise Wilson is a little responsible. But not that much. So leave her alone. All comments, hostile or otherwise, should be sent directly to Buz Whelan @ buzfromjersey@aol.com or via a letter to the editor.