



The View from Vantage Point East

October/November 2024

Vol 22 No. 8

To Inform, Engage and Entertain our VPE neighbors

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

10/31-Halloween Party @7:30 p.m.

11/3-Daylight Savings Time Ends

11/5- Election Day—VOTE!!!

11/11- Veterans Day

11/28- Thanksgiving Day VPE

Office Closed

11/29- LW Offices & VPE Office Closed

VPE HONORS OUR VETERANS



Mona Cassidy Unit 514 US Navy 1972



The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance and support for veterans and their families, and is associated with Veterans Day and Memorial Day



Ljuca Belsito, Unit 304
RN, BC- CCM, Patient
Advocate , CAPT (ret)
US Public Health Service



Jerry Leventhal Unit 914
ROTC 1953

President's Message

By Henry Jordan



First, let me wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving in advance. I hope you can enjoy the holiday with family and friends.

Thank you for coming to the 22nd annual meeting of the VPE Council of Unit Owners. Richard Boker, our long-time board member, retired from the VPE Board. We all want to thank him for his many years of service to our association. You have elected Sally Dunford to take his place for a three-year term and a big thank you for approving the revised by-laws which modernize the rules that govern our condominium association. Mike Baum was also re-elected to the VPE Board for a three-year term. The VPE officers for next year are Henry Jordan President, Ann Ferren Vice President, Sid Sussan Treasurer and Mike Baum as Secretary.

Our budget has been formulated for 2025 and was sent to all unit owners for review and comment.

This past month two budget meetings were held to hear comments on the proposed 2025 budget prior to approving the final budget for 2025. On behalf of the unit owners, I would like to thank both the Budget and Finance Committee, Cris Juarez, and the Treasurer for an excellent job in looking at our projected income status and the obligations in maintaining the wellbeing of the building in developing the budget for next year.

We are all aware of the potential for disasters, both of property and our bank accounts, resulting from water leaks of all kinds. If the water leak is detected early, little damage will incur to your unit and with the neighbors' units. Unfortunately, we do get leaks in the building caused by just things happening. It is too late when you discover the water on the floor as it usually only starts with just a small drip or two.

One way to discover these problems before they become a big problem is to purchase a water alarm. It is a small box that sits on the floor under the sink, behind the refrigerator, in the laundry room and in the bathroom.

It is so sensitive to water that if you just put your hand across the contacts, it makes a loud noise. We urge you to protect you and your neighbors from water damage by purchasing a water alarm.

They cost about \$12 and another dollar or two for a five-year battery. Check with the VPE office staff as they may have some for sale.

It is November and winter is almost in the air. If you are a snowbird about to head south, have a safe journey and we will see you in the spring. If you are driving and have a garage space open, let the office know as there are individuals who would like to rent your garage space. If you are leaving your car outside for the winter, please park on the side of the building near the Overlook and NOT in the snow dumping area.

Again, let me wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the fall weather before we have the cold winter upon us.

August—September Board Actions

By Earl Reba

The VPE Board voted to approve::

- the updated Policy Resolution No 5: Use of Community Room effective August 29,2024 as amended
- Dynalectric proposal #0524-1421 to replace the fire system batteries at a cost of \$5,520.00. Funds to come from Replacement Reserves Account.
- the engagement letter with BDO
- the 2023 draft audit as presented with two abstentions (Boker, Sussan)
- sending a letter to the Leisure World Community Corporation Board to address the VPE Board's extreme concerns about the process by which Leisure World contracted for auditing services that preempted the VPE Board of its corporate rights to engage in a contract for the audit.

Continued on Page 6

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities Committee

By Lyn Tanenholtz

Come in costume or not, just don't miss our annual Halloween party on October 31!

And you don't want to miss our last birthday party of 2024, honoring those with October, November and December birthdays and to which **all VPEs** are invited. Mark your calendars now for our Holiday Party on December 19 and watch for information about ticket sales and menu choices later in November. As always, check out flyers in the elevators, on the tables across from the elevators, and on our residents' bulletin board in the lobby to see what's going on in our very active and fun building. Please be sure to read the complete calendar of Activities Committee events in this issue of THE VIEW.

Budget & Finance Committee

By Doug Carlson

The Budget & Finance Committee, in collaboration with VPE's Property Manager (Cris Juarez) and Treasurer (Sid Sussan), completed a review of the Draft 2025 VPE Budget and forwarded it to the VPE Board for consideration. The Board approved distributing this Draft Budget to the unit owners for their review and comments (written comments can be submitted until October 30th per the October 1st letter from the Treasurer to all unit owners concerning the Draft Budget). Subsequently, two budget forums were held where a total of about 50 unit owners were given a presentation on the Draft Budget and were able to ask questions about details of the Budget and budget process for 2025. It was noted that the total assessments for the 2023-2025 period, assuming the current Draft Budget is approved, track very closely to the Multi-Year Funding Plan that was developed and published in 2022. Attendees were also briefed on some of the yet unknown aspects of current and future projects that may impact budgets in 2026 and beyond.

The next planned step in the budget process is for the Board to meet in late October to consider any new information that might have been gathered, make changes to the Draft Budget, if any are needed, and then approve the 2025 VPE Budget.

Building and Grounds Committee

By Bruce Hulman

The Building & Grounds Committee met on September 18, 2024, and the following items were discussed:

1. Penthouse roof renovation work has started, with the initial phase of work to include moving the emergency generator from the penthouse to the main roof. ***See photo on back page 8***
 2. Tier 11 water damage work is under way.
 3. Introduction of building management software called "BuildingLink." A formal "BuildingLink" software presentation will be scheduled in the near future.
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Covenants Committee

By Ann Ferren

Over the years, several amendments have been made to the original 2002 Bylaws governing VPE. The Covenants Committee has recently reviewed the entire document for consistency with changes in the Condominium Act, Maryland law, and new technology opportunities, to name just a few areas of concern. Some of the language has been simplified and updated. Newer provisions including rental restrictions and insurance requirements have been integrated. If the Council of Unit Owners votes to approve the Amended and Restated Bylaws, the Covenants Committee will turn its attention of updating the Residents Manual including the Rules and Regulations for VPE.

Please let the **VPE Sunshine Committee** know of any ill, bereaved or new residents who should be acknowledged. Call Marylin Jordan (301) 598-0174 or Barbara Halperin (240) 242-3451.

When Is It Noise?

By Sally Dunford

The cacophony of the Bronx is music when you're in the right mood. Certainly, I missed it when I first moved to Leisure World.

In my old apartment there were so many noises: the sound of steam rising in the old radiators, the whistling kettle, thYTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT.

The door slamming no matter how many times you said "Don't!"

On the street, the sounds of buses zipping up and down Bainbridge Avenue, the sirens from the ambulances heading for the two emergency rooms just blocks away. There were the sounds of the people, the children shouting and laughing in the playground across the street. And the fascinating mixture of language --- so many languages over the years -- Yiddish, Spanish (in all its myriad varieties) Tagalog, Bengali, Chinese, Albanian, and so many more. From the building, neighbors calling out of windows, and kids yelling up from the courtyard.

At work, the phone rang incessantly as did the doorbell. And there were sadder sounds: worried, scared sounds -- sometimes tears. And often more cheerful voices of folks who had some hope.



Leisure World is so much quieter. Occasionally we hear the vacuum cleaner in the hallway. Sometimes there's the sounds of the landscaping or maintenance crews. And when the wind is high, we hear it whistle as it comes by our windows. And of course there are still ambulances. But mostly it's just quiet, and I turn on the TV for company.

The sound of my Bronx neighborhood was more incessant, more guttural. There was the constant reassurance that life was passing by just outside the window, from person to person and generation to generation. It was my background music for years -- and I still sometimes miss it.

They are Among Us

By Lawrence Kurlandsky

No, this is not a sci-fi horror story but an introduction to an invasive insect called the **Spotted Lanternfly** that is now among us here in Leisure World and surrounding Montgomery County. First you should know: it is not toxic and does not bite or sting people, but can be a nuisance while flitting about.

It does attack trees and plants especially the Tree of Heaven, its natural food source, maples, and grape vines. It was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and in Maryland in 2018. I first became aware of it while traveling through New Jersey. So, imagine my surprise when one appeared recently on the window ledge outside my condo here. It escaped but not before I photographed it, which turned out to be important. I looked at the Maryland Department of Agriculture website for info. I found a lot of information. It encourages any sighting be reported after photographing it. Without equivocation, the next piece of advice is to kill it. My wife and I also found one on the sidewalk at Leisure World Plaza, which we photographed and squashed. If you see one, kill it, as well as wiping away any egg cluster, if you can, which may look like a splash of mud on trees, walls, ledges, trailers, and vehicles until a good frost.

The Department of Agriculture would like you to kill them but not use pesticides as they are resistant, and pesticides may harm "good" insects. Below are some photos of how they look: gray and spotted with red if their wings spread.

You can report your sighting online by typing Maryland spotted lanternfly -- then click on "Report it on line here" along with a photo.



Activities Committee Events in October & November

By Barbara Eisen

All activities are in the Community Room unless another location is noted.

Thursday, October 31 at 7:30 p.m.
VPE Halloween Party



Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Yoga - Free senior classes are offered. All residents, including beginners are welcome.

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 10:15 a.m.

Chair Exercises – Seated low impact exercises for seniors.

Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Indoor Walking – The program is good for the heart and gets you moving with no bouncing or jumping.

Friday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m.
BYOD (Bring Your Own Dinner)

Wednesday, November 13 at 12 noon
Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m.
Current Events

Friday, November 15 at 11 a.m.
Kitchen Item Drive

Sunday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Night Movie with Popcorn

Monday, , November 18 at 7:30 p.m.
Bingo Night

Tuesday, November 19 at 3:00 p.m.
Book Club – Members are reading “The Only Woman in the Room” by Marie Benedict. The moderator will be Maureen Pelter. New members are always welcome.

Keeping up with Events – Watch for flyers in the elevators, on the tables on each floor, on the bulletin boards, and under your doors for further details about events.

Property Manager’s Corner

By Cris Juarez

House Cleaning Services: If you have engaged the services of a house cleaning service company or with a housekeeper, please be sure to let them know that they should use the garage entrances and not the front door. We are seeing an increased number of people with cleaning supplies coming through the front entrance. Please help us by giving clear instructions to your service provider.

Community Room Inspectors- We are looking for volunteers to inspect our Community Room before and after events. Volunteers need only spend a little bit of their time looking through the room along with the person reserving it to ensure there have been no damages. This is a wonderful way for you to get involved and meet your neighbors. Please contact the Office at (301) 598-1075 if you’re interested.

Luggage Carts- The luggage carts that are maintained in the P-level lobby are there for your convenience. Please be considerate of others and ensure you return the cart immediately after use; do not leave a cart in your unit. The carts are for resident use only. If you have a contractor working in your unit, please be sure to advise them they cannot use the carts to transport their equipment or materials.

Extended Absence Forms- Please remember to always fill out an Extended Absence Form if you expect to be away for more than 3 days. Please be sure to include cell phone numbers and an email address. As these projects progress, it is extremely important that we have contact information and a way to access your unit in your absence if needed.

Make sure there is a unit key filed with the Main Gate- Contact the Main Gate at 301-598-1044 to verify that a key is on file. You can also stop by, check out your key to be sure it works. This is especially important if you’ve recently moved in.

Happy Thanksgiving VPEers



Who Are You (again!)? (with addendum)

By Ruth Kurlandsky

Many of us have difficulty remembering names and faces, or names that go with faces, or faces that go with names. My husband can remember faces, but not their names. I can come up with names, but I don't recognize faces! I read about a condition called "face blindness" some time ago. I figured out that I must have a case of partial face blindness. Recently, I came across an article by Sadie Dingfelder. In it, she describes the neurological disorder called prosopagnosia—or face blindness! The man who coined the term "faceblindness" is Bill Choisser, who asked his partner "Why do TV shows have so many close-ups of actors' faces? How are we supposed to tell them apart if we can't see their clothes?" A eureka moment! Sadie describes growing up, hitting it off with somebody and the next day seeing them as a stranger. She learned to cope by the sound of a voice, and treating everybody as a friend. More research followed, resulting in her first book: *Do I know you? A Faceblind Reporter's Journey into the Science of Sight, Memory, and Imagination*. It's available on Amazon, and the Montgomery County library system has a handful of copies.

So, here's my confession: I have a case of partial face blindness. I've been coping by saying things like "Sorry, I'm blocking on your name. Please tell me again." Please understand, I may not be the only one around that has this problem. Once we meet, I won't recognize you until we meet 6 or 8 more times.

Here, I offer you two faces: Sadie, the author, and Sadie, our youngest granddaughter! (And yes, even I can tell them apart!)



Addendum:

Since I first drafted this article, I got hold of the actual book. It's fascinating!! Sadie Dingfelder has been a science writer all along; she wrote for the Washington Post. She put herself through a lot of testing to find out if she is really faceblind, and then went on to call up various prominent scientists to be tested on whatever they were working on. She makes the complicated stuff clear, and even writes with chuckles. Here's one: I'm the best of the worst—after a test result. And a quote from Steve Wozniak: I know a company that can build a brain—it takes nine months. It turns out that many of us have some variety (varieties!) of neurodivergence, and get through life ok. But the take home message is that we're all quite different, in various corners of our brains. I highly encourage everyone to consider this, and of course, be kind to each other.

The VIEW from VPE

VPE Clothing Drive An Overwhelming Success

By Cheryl Fleming

On Friday, September 27, the VPE Outreach Team in collaboration with the Activities Committee, held an extremely successful clothing drive. We collected over six SUV loads of all kinds of apparel and footwear, which were taken to the Interfaith Chapel on Twinbrook Drive. Our next drive will be on November and we will be collecting household items. VPEers are the most generous folks!! Thanks, ALL OF YOU!



The VPE Board voted to approve: Continued from Page 2

- AMD Mechanical Contractors proposal #6773 to disconnect and reconnect eight residential HVAC units on the 10th tier for roof modifications at a cost of \$12,440.00. Funds to come from Replacement Reserves Account .
- AMD Mechanical Contractors proposal #6774 for a crane rental to relocate the generator and haul away the central rooftop unit at a cost does not exceed \$12,000.00. Funds to come from Replacement Reserves Account.
- 2025 Draft Budget as presented for distribution to unit owners for a 30-day review period.
- To hold two Budget Forums on Tuesday, October 15th at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room.
- Rees Broome's proposal to report the required information to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network per the Corporate Transparency Act at a cost of \$375.
- To go into Executive session immediately following the Board meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters. A roll call was held and recorded with each board member present. All members present voted in favor to go into closed session in accordance with Section 11-109.1 of the Maryland Condominium Act.

Things I've Found to Be True (In No Particular Order) By Sally Dunford

It's never as bad as you think.
Time does not heal all wounds
Material things do not make you happier, but they do make things easier
You can embarrass your kids just by breathing
Most people do the best they're capable of
Any crisis you can walk away from is ok
Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but no one entitled to impose that opinion on you
A baby's laugh is one of the most beautiful sounds in the world
If you believe you can do something you may very well succeed, but if you believe you will fail you will probably fail
It is better to be a survivor than a victim
Making something legal doesn't make it right
Everyone can teach you something
Just when you think your heart is so full that you think there isn't any more room, someone or something will come along and prove you wrong.
There is real evil in the world. It's toxic and can kill or maim what it touched. But with enough love, time and commitment you can still make a difference.
In the end, it's all worth it.

A Night of Comedy



Come enjoy a night of hilarity with
The Improbable Comedy Group

Thursday, November 14th

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.)

In Clubhouse 2, Activities Room

Ticket are \$10.00 due by November 6th

Have any questions ???

Contact Lyn Tanenholtz at 301-288-7770

Sponsored by VPE, Creekside, Fairways South,
Turnberry Courts, and Overlook

The VIEW from VPE

Tips for New Residents

By India Cox

Welcome New Residents-

We know that making your home in a new place is a challenge, so VPE tries to make it easier. The Residents Manual provides a great deal of information and is worth a careful read and also a place to check first when you have a question whether it's about pets, parking, or remodeling.

These tips will get you started:

- Don't know many folks yet—just introduce yourself on the elevator, in the hall, or at the mailbox. Give us old timers a hint on how to remember your name with just a little information about your hobbies or where you lived before.
- Too much stuff to fit in the generous closets—ask for an information guide in the Office on where to donate usable goods or carefully follow the recycling guidelines in the Refuse Room. They may be different from those at your former residence.
- More books than you need--books are always welcome in our library and those we can't use are taken to the Montgomery County Library Bookstore to support the local libraries. Borrow a book anytime and return it to the basket for re-shelving.
- Too much furniture—sorry we can't take it in on the loading dock, but you can donate, for example to a Wider Circle or Habitat for Humanity. You can always put a note on the bulletin board to give away or sell an item to another resident.
- Have an expertise that VPE Committees could use—check the bulletin board for committees and volunteer. We can always use those with financial, engineering, and planning backgrounds on our committees as we aim to keep the building in top shape and protect your investment.
- Want to fill in some free time—check the monthly newsletter, the View, and read the notices in the elevator for announcements. The Activities Committee sponsors a wide variety of activities, but you are also welcome to join in games or set up your own in the Community Room.

We hope you will enjoy the VPE Community for years to come. Joining our community is one investment we can guarantee brings returns.





Address!

All electronic submissions for *The View* should be sent to:

vpe-the-view@googlegroups.com
Submission deadline is
November 15, 2024



Photo by Jim Lieberman



Mark These Dates

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Activities	Nov 6	1:30 p.m.
Building & Grounds	TBA	
Communication	Nov 13	1:30 p.m.

Heads Up VPEers!



We are looking for the following volunteers to help our Community thrive and continue to grow:

Writers for The View.

A graphics/layout tech.

Helpings to set up for VPE special events.

Volunteers for Community Room inspections for private events.

Please let the View Crew know if you have special talents you'd like to share. We encourage and welcome your participation.

The View Crew

Communications Committee

Suzanne Offit, Chair

Cheryl Fleming, Co-Chair & Editor in Chief

Len Silver, Emeritus

Tom McGrath, Consultant

India Cox, Webmaster

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