



Retreat Roundabout

Reflections

April 2013

Volume 1, Issue 6

Around The Board



Winter is slow to depart and Spring is slow to arrive. Warmer weather is forthcoming; so too is our annual Homeowners Meeting in May. As a reminder, three Board positions will open. Please consider supporting your community by completing a candidate application to serve on the Board of Directors. Applications are available in the clubhouse and upon completion are to be mailed to The Retreat at Greenbrier Condominium Association, 525 S. Independence Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452 attn: Kerry Laughlin, site mgr.

Recently, all residents received two forms from Kerry Laughlin, our on site manager. The first form, age verification, is required by Federal law to be completed once every two years to comply with our restricted 55 years or older resident age limit. To meet the guideline of 80% we must receive 98 responses. Through the 29th of March, we have received 73. The second form represents a change to the Retreat By-Laws pertaining to rental of residence by the owner. Currently 20% of owned units may be rented and Economic factors will not satisfy the hardship requirement. Upon build-out there will be 184 units representing 37 residences available for rental. At an earlier town hall meeting, attendees agreed that an addendum to the By-Laws should be presented reducing the total rentals from 20% to 5% or 8 units. To achieve this change, it must be agreed to by 66 & 2/3rd % of the residents or presently 82. Through the 29th of March we have received 67.

If you have misplaced either form and require another, please contact Board Secretary, Glenna Skinner, at 757-410-4498.

For Commons area or residence concerns other than warranty issues, all calls must be referred to Mr. Kerry Laughlin, our property manager for United Property Associates, at 757-502-4802.

Have you noticed our new speed limit signs at the entrance to Retreat Drive and Carrolton Way? Thanks to Dana Gilbert, Chair of the Grounds and Maintenance Committee, and his crew of dedicated workers for a fine installation. If you are interested in joining Dana's committee, his home # is 436-3249.

The Board of Directors extends a warm welcome to all new residents. If you have a question or concern contact Tony Constand, President, at 410-7695.

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS...

Dennis & Cheri Petraitis **1421 Sandchip Terrace**

What a neat couple. In that, I mean, when their kids said “Mom and Dad” please move with us to be near the grand kids”, they did! Dennis and Cheri, from New Jersey, have also lived in Pennsylvania and Saint Louis, Missouri to be near the “kids”. Dennis served in the Marine Corps and retired after 30 years from IBM. He and Cheri started a business: An “Education Center for Computer Training.” This special training for the unemployed has successfully placed most of their students. Cheri worked for 20 years in “E-3 Partner Ministry” and traveled the world extensively on mission trips. Once again they moved to **The Retreat** to be near the grandkids. You will see them walking their cute, friendly little dog “Poppy”; stop and say hello!

Barbara Keeling **1437 Blairwood Drive**

Barbara is from Danville, Virginia. She was married for 60 years and she is very proud of her three sons. David is a Captain and flies for Southwest Airlines, Thomas is an Architect, living in Charlotte, NC and Bill is in the Environmental Science service helping to clean up Chesapeake Bay. Lucky Barbara, she happens to live next door to her best friend, our very own Beth Jordan. They have been friends for fifty years and enjoy traveling together. Barbara is a quilter, basket weaver, does needlepoint and can cane chairs. She is getting settled and is very happy at **The Retreat**.

Pat & Suzanne Carlucci **1422 Sandchip Terrace**

From New Jersey, they came to Virginia Beach and settled in the Middle Plantation area. Pat’s career was in sales and marketing in the chemical field. Suzanne was an administrative assistant. Pat still has his hand in the workplace by publishing a subscription-based journal on gas/chemicals. Becoming tired of caring for the

big yard and pool/spa, but still wanting the privacy of a single family home, prompted their move. Pat enjoys golf, joined the Greenbrier Country Club and purchased the house at **The Retreat**. I don’t know which purchase came first!?? It looks like a trip to Italy is also on the horizon.

Effie Taylor **1445 Thistlewood Lane**

Born in the Isle of Wight, Effie grew up in Princess Anne County. She has two children and 5 grandchildren. Effie worked for the Norfolk Social Service Department as Supervisor of the Eligibility Unit of Finances. She then went on to work on the State-level Department of Social Services. She saw many changes and improvements over the years to help the less fortunate in our community. Effie is friends with Ann Wall, a **Retreat** resident. Effie is settling in and looking forward to getting involved in the community. Welcome Effie it was a pleasure talking to you

Susanne Glover **1447 Thistlewood Lane**

Susanne and her former husband originally lived in Elyria, Ohio where Susanne worked as a school teacher. When they both retired they moved to Wilmington, NC where they grew to love the south and our warm weather. After her husband’s death, Susanne moved here to be close to her daughter. In addition to her daughter (a school teacher), she has two sons; one lives in Toledo, Ohio and the other in Sellersburg, Indiana. Susanne moved her furnishings in a month ago, but left the next day to visit a friend in Florida. She is back now and anxious to get to make new friends in **The Retreat**.

Welcome !

Technology Tips & Tricks

Andy Butler, MS/CIS



The Retreat Bistro

To Windows 8 or Not ?

New computers come with Windows 8 (Win 8) already installed. Microsoft also offers Win 8 as an upgrade for Windows XP, Vista, or 7 for less than \$40 (at the time this column was written) from the Microsoft website.

Is it worth it? There is an adage that says don't buy version 1 of anything from Microsoft. This new operating system is no exception. Version numbers no longer identify newer editions, instead, they are identified by the latest Service Pack (SP), e.g. SP1, SP2, etc. The new adage is to wait until SP1 is out for any Microsoft product, and SP2 is better.

Because I must learn Win 8 before customers call, I installed the upgrade on my workbench computer to gain experience. Finding files and programs, or even the desktop, took lots of time because of how this operating system works. My productivity ground to a halt.

Microsoft has long dreamed of putting Windows on every device: Desktops, laptops, TV's, smart phones, gaming systems, etc. Win 8 is the product they are banking on. Yet the operating system is more like those found on smart phones than on real computers. Maybe it works on cell phones and tablets, but not on a computer you depend on.

What's good? It includes virus protection and a firewall, plus some free and useful Apps (small applications). You can download cheap or free Apps for everyday tasks, and run many Microsoft productivity tools—even an old copy of Microsoft Works I had run. Non-Microsoft Software may, or may not run. So, my advice is: Wait for SP1 or SP2 unless all you need is a computer to surf the net. But if that is the case, why not get a Tablet to do the surfing? It costs less, and it is built for that.

Future columns will cover using technology to save money, tips to keep your computer in top shape, and reviews of new Technology Products.

Peach Cobbler

1 cup milk
1 cup sugar
1 cup self rising flour
1 stick butter
2 bags frozen peaches, partially thawed

Melt butter in 13x9 inch baking dish. Add peaches. Mix sugar, milk and self rising flour in bowl, until smooth. Pour over fruit. Bake at 350 until top is browned, approx. 30-40 minutes. You can use fresh or canned fruit, peaches work very well, You can substitute other fruit as well, such as blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, apples, blackberries ...you just need about 4cups.

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Quick Quiche

3 cups grated Zucchini (or whatever)
1 cup of grated Mozzarella cheese
1 onion chopped
Small handful of fresh or dried chopped parsley
1 cup of Bisquick
5 eggs
½ cup vegetable or corn oil
Salt to taste

Mix ingredients in order listed and stir until Bisquick is no longer lumpy. Pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting. This is an old family recipe of Alice Frankel and she states that everyone who tries it, likes it. It is easy to make and other ingredients such as mushrooms, peppers or other cheeses may be added.

Neighborhood Watch Program



As residents may or may not know, The Retreat previously had a Neighborhood Watch program that has fallen by the wayside. I just wanted to encourage any and all residents that may be interested to participate in this program. The Watch is not only a great way for residents to participate and show interest in the community, but it has added benefits as well. One of those being that with an active program, the local police will send updates, usually to the Watch Captain, that can be passed on to the community to make sure that all residents are aware of current bulletins, notices pertaining to Amber Alerts, and current trends they are seeing in criminal activity.

One such trend that we were seeing last year was people claiming to be with an alarm company saying that they were giving free inspections of alarm systems to give advice on how people could improve their systems or get new ones installed. The reality being that those so called “company employees” were actually “casing” people’s homes and noting items of value. They would then return to the houses and steal items. This has been noted in several Hampton Roads communities and residents should be aware.

There was also a recent visit to The Retreat by a company claiming that they could upgrade peoples systems to a wireless connection, free of charge. What they would actually do was perform the “upgrade”, install a wireless connection, and take over your contract as the new monitoring company. Please remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Lastly, this company made the comment that there were no signs posted that there was no soliciting, so they gave some residents a hard time when asked to leave. Please remember that we DO have no soliciting signs posted at the main entrance and also at the secondary entrance on Alexis Way. So, if someone comes and knocks on your door trying to sell you something or ask to gain admittance to your home for some kind of “free” inspection, please feel confident in asking them to leave as there are in fact

signs posted and the Board is adding another as well.

Please be mindful of these issues and keep yourself and the community safe! If anyone is interested in joining the Neighborhood Watch, please contact Tom Szelest for more information.

Kerry Laughlin, CMCA, AMS
The Retreat at Greenbrier Association Manager

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Retreat at Greenbrier Condominiums
Neighborhood Watch Program

I am very excited about what is going on with the Program. Fayeelaine and I met with 2 of the Chesapeake Police Officers that are part of the Chesapeake Crime Prevention Council , CCPC, Program, of which the Neighborhood Watch Program is a part. We found out that there are a lot of different items they work with to prevent crime in the City.

These 2 Officers will be here at The Retreat on 20 April to meet with the Board of Directors and the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. I will be sending out the information to the Block Captains this week. I am still in need of 2, maybe 3 Block Captains. One block would be the addresses of 1421 Blairwood Lane to 1441 Blairwood Lane. The other addresses are 1425 Thistlewood Lane to 1447 Thistlewood Lane. And the last list of addresses, I have not heard back from the couple I have asked, is 1446 & 1448 Carrolton Lane and 1407 Thistlewood Lane to 1423 Thistlewood Lane. If you know of anyone that would like to volunteer or if you would like to volunteer please contact me, Tom Szelest, Neighborhood Watch Program Captain at either 410-9037 or via email at tszelest@verizon.net. I know that some of these residences have not been constructed but the Blocks were laid out based on 184 residences and as the ones that are not built yet are constructed, respective Block Captains will be selected from the new residents.

When we met with the Officers, I was amazed at what was available on line that can help prevent, or

at least slow down crime. At the meeting on 20 April the 2 Officers will present a lot of useful information that the Block Captains will get out to the residents of their respective blocks.

This is just part of what is planned for the NWP here at The Retreat and I do hope that each and every one of the residents will embrace this program as a very good security plan for The Retreat.

At your service

Tom Szelest

Neighborhood Watch Captain

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THE RETREAT CHRONICLES

"OUR STORIED PATHS"

What is an American? Let me tell you about my neighbor Paul Austin.

Life began for him in the heart of our country, Washington, DC. Then his family left the city of Democrats & Republicans to a more rural setting.

Paul grew up in Roanoke Virginia, and at the tender age of 14 he worked at the neighborhood grocery store. This young man always found something to do, idle hands were not his friend. After high school graduation he went to college in North Carolina, paying & scrimping to earn the education to accomplish his dreams. Later transferring to Virginia, Paul became a Hokie at Virginia Tech.

The Vietnam War changed our nation & the life of this young college graduate. Traditionally, the Austin family men joined the navy to support our country. Paul altered those traditions to become a soldier in the Army. Soldier is a good word to describe this "All American Man." A good soldier accepts his assignments and carries them through to the best of his abilities. This soldier got his first orders on the bus from boot camp. His assignment was to deliver the important paperwork of all the 45 men on the bus to the "charge" at the end of their destination. It is no accident this responsibility was entrusted to him.

The men of the 199th Infantry Brigade became brothers who learned to follow this young soldier into battle without hesitation. Responsibility of his

men weighed heavy on his young shoulders. However, the true test of a man is how he accepts responsibility & delivers. Paul marched into Hell for his country & the band of brothers he honored. His bravery into battle put him ahead of his men & cost him tremendously when he stepped on a land mine. I didn't ask him, but my sense says, he would do it again, because that's the American he is.

Life granted him some great gifts; upon return back to the homeland he met Linda at the local watering hole. The story goes, he asked her to dance & they have been dancing thru life ever since. They have 5 children who must know how lucky they are to have such great parents. Parents who were committed to sharing life's experiences outside the rural town in which they lived. How important to mentor your children to be open to the possibilities & see all that the world can show. They planned family vacations in many awesome locations so their children could appreciate our America. Paul and Linda stressed diversity and clearly understood the meaning of raising children to respect their fellow man & the country he so gallantly defended.

Paul went on to work for the railroad for 33 years. His diversity at this station was less dangerous but clearly impressive in his upward climb within the company. Leadership again shakes hands with this soldier and his responsibilities at the railroad continued to flourish with each and every opportunity.

Today during a well-deserved retirement you can find him on the golf course, traveling with Linda or cheering on the Hokies. When asked, "Of what are you most proud, Paul quickly responds, his family." That is a true American!

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Neighborhood Watch Sign



St. Patrick's Party
Did you miss all the FUN ?
This Leprechaun didn't !



New Class
Monday, April 22nd at 6:30pm

It is a beading class that Bev Centliver will be teaching. If you're interested in signing up, please contact Bev directly to make your reservation. Her phone number and email are in the new directory. Call soon before seats fill.

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WOW!



Cinco de Mayo
May 4 at 6:00 pm



Chocolate Delight Night

April 20 7:00 pm

Water Aerobics

Get ready for some great times at the pool. Water aerobics will be offered at 10:00 am. Exact days and dates will be announced in the near future. Punch cards will be used and can be transferred to others if not used. Punch cards never expire



FUN FOR ALL



PLEASE !!!!!!!

Slow Down and Watch Out!

Now that the weather has warmed up, more people are getting out walking and riding bikes. Some residents have noticed others speeding down the roads which can be dangerous to walkers and cyclists. For the drivers, please keep at the **14 MPH speed limit** and for the walkers and cyclists, please keep to the side of the roads. It has also been noticed some people are confused as to which direction to go around our traffic circle, as a rule, stay to the right. We don't want any surprise confrontations with other cars or pedestrians.

REZONING SIGNS

There are 4 red re-zoning signs posted at the entrances to The Retreat. Don't panic, we are not being rezoned.

At the September Town Hall meeting we had a discussion on the age restrictions as it was worded in our City Proffers. It stated only a surviving spouse under the age of 55 could remain in the home upon the death of the qualifying homeowner. We have requested a modification to the Proffer to permit "caretaker or non-married partner" to remain in the unit upon the death of the qualifying homeowner.

Anytime you make a change to a City Proffer, you must post re-zoning signs announcing the meeting date at which the City will discuss the request. These signs must remain until the City has voted.

Please contact any Board member if you have any questions.

Thank You, Board of Directors



Events

Event	Time	Contact
Bunco-Morning	Third Thursday, 10:30 a.m.	Rosemary Thietje, thietje@cox.net
Bunco-Evening	First Thursday, 6:30 p.m.	Rosemary Thietje, thietje@cox.net
Men's Billiards	Every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.	Dave Hollembeak, kdhollmbk@gmail.com
Ladies' Bible Study	Every Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. (except June-August)	Jo Grahame, mamajo17@verizon.net (757) 548-2490
Knitting and Crochet Club	Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.	Rose Sunderland, (757) 819-7220
Bingo	Fourth Friday, 7 p.m.	Mary Munley - mmunley@us.ibm.com .
Card/Game Night	Second Friday, 7 p.m.	Edna and Tony Constand, ajconstand@aol.com
Breakfast at the Clubhouse	Second Saturday 9:00 a.m.	Various Hostesses
Free Blood Pressure Check	Second Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Nancy Rakestraw, nancygnurse@cox.net
Gourmet Dining Event	Second Saturday, 6 p.m. reservations required	Karen Pelham and Susan Tarkenton tarkaren@aol.com
Poker Night –Guys and Gals	Fourth Thursday, 7 pm	
Art and Painting	Third Saturday 10:00am – 12:00pm	Karen Pelham, tarkaren@aol.com
Bridge for Ladies and Gentleman	Time and date TBA	

Nancy Rakestraw	Editor	nancygnurse@cox.net	phone 410-8566
Edna Constand	Assistant Editor	ajconstand@aol.com	phone 410-7695
Susan Tarkenton	Writer- <i>Our Storied Past</i>	tarkaren@aol.com	phone – 410-7562
Karen Pelham	Writer- <i>The Retreat Bistro</i>	tarkaren@aol.com	phone – 410-7562
Celia Gilbert	Photography	celiaanne@cox.net	phone – 436-3249
Tony Constand	Writer- <i>Around the Board</i>	ajconstand@aol.com	phone – 410-7695
Andy Butler	Writer-	jbutler561@aol.com	phone – 410-4346
	Technology Tips and Tricks		