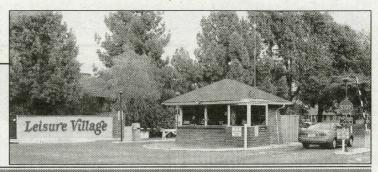
LEISURE VILLAGE



Val 95 No 5

An Active Senior Community

Pleasant Valley, Camarillo, California

February 6, 2004

LV's game of catch-up will be expensive

By Joseph Benti

Jack Prosen, president of the Leisure Village Board of Directors, has a lot in common with the old-time baseball pitcher Satchel Paige, who once advised, "Don't look back because whatever it is may be gaining on vou!"

Prosen, a retired financial adviser, keeps warning us and the board that what is gaining on us is what "we did not do" in the past.

Now, just to "catch up" and stay up, we have to pay for it.

Like it or not, Prosen says, the Village faces some big bills that have to be paid sooner rather than later, especially those two 800-pound gorillas, Workers Comp and the Village's contribution to employee health care benefits. Those

looming obligations (and there are others), combined with the Village's historic pattern of putting off or rescheduling needed work, is now the price of catching up.

The biggest bills will go for LV's landscaping and its

roads, what Prosen calls, "the turf." Over the years, paying for the annual operation of the Village (now in its 31st year) has been much like the way most of us manage our budgets.

Please see CATCH-UP on 8



LV residents attend the Trading Post Monthly Sale, where Villagers can browse through and purchase donated merchandise. See story, Page 6.

Disaster drill set for Thursday, Feb. 26

By Ken Curry

The first Emergency Services Drill of 2004 will occur on Thursday, Feb. 26. The Village-wide disaster drill will focus on the important first few minutes of a very severe earthquake, with a power outage and outbreaks of small, dreaded fires inside some of the homes.

"At such a time," Co-Chair Art Thomson explained, "each individual resident has to be prepared to save himself or herself from serious harm, to the best of that resident's ability. That will be our theme for this drill."

As all Californians should know by this time, everyone should have a plastic bag with an extra pair of shoes under the bed so they can walk through the debris, broken glass and rubble to escape from the house.

Every resident should have a flashlight by the bedside and a handy portable radio to keep informed with

Please see DRILL on 7

Current Issues Forum brings candidates to LV Feb. 20



Kathy Long

By Marilyn Holthouse

Kathy Long and Mike Morgan, candidates for the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, District 3, will be speakers at the Current Issues Forum to present their qualifications for this office. This informative meeting will be Friday, Feb. 20, in the Assembly Room at 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors is the policy-making body for all of the services, programs, activities and resources that are under the

auspices of the county. That means that the work of the Board of Supervisors significantly affects the health, safety, security and quality of life of all of the residents in Ventura County.

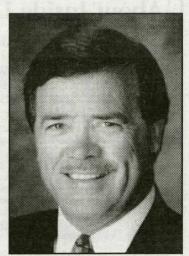
time contestant for this position, has served the City of Camarillo for 20 years on the City Counce At various times he was mayor and vice mayor. In has a bachelor's degree

Kathy Long, seeking reelection, has served two terms as supervisor and before that was Chief of Staff for Supervisor Maggie Kildee for five years. She has a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and did additional study at Wayne State University.

Mike Morgan, a third-

time contestant for this position, has served the City of Camarillo for 20 years on the City Council. At various times he was the mayor and vice mayor. He has a bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach, and a public administration master's degree from the University of Southern California.

Lillian Hawthorne, chairman of Current Issues Forum, will moderate the discussion and the following question-and-answer period.



Mike Morgan

o the Woodshop: A million thanks for putting together the student desk and for delivering same to my house. What a capable crew your are, and so willing to help! Thanks you once again.

— Beatrice Metzler, V. 17

his letter is not meant to be critical of the board or their predecessors, but rather to express the hope that they will address the problem..

Many of us believe that in good conscience, successive boards have been overly responsive to the vocal advocates of spending as little money as possible. While some of us have come here to downsize, we did not come to downgrade. Yet we've been forced to in this respect: by excessive economy at the expense of quality in the maintenance of our grounds.

Our homes and the grass surrounding them are the two most prominent visual aspects of our Village. They should receive equal attention. If that will cost more, so be it. You get what you pay for, rarely more, and almost never is quality cheap

I suggest you consider the creation, over time, of large islands of relatively inexpensive, easily maintained decorative plants to replace areas now in grass. This will reduce maintenance costs and water demand and also, I suggest, will enhance and enliven



New York Club past and new 2004 officers are, from left, Jules Posner, past president; Leatrice Posner, correspondence secretary; Alan Caldwell, vice president; Ida Zeller, secretary, Marty Hasen, president; Sylvia Mopper, treasurer; and Lou Schwab, vice president. Not shown are Roz Gleimer, past president, and Florence Sklarz, financial secretary. For more on the club, see Page 9.

overall appearance. That's long range.

- Bob Bond, V. 37

A t the Trading Post, I was approached by a woman who asked if I had wooden floors in my home, and I do not. Then she asked me why I want them in the AR.

Please see LETTERS on 3

Letters

ILV has obligated itself to publish letters that are not profane, inflammatory, or libelous. Views or statements expressed are the beliefs of the writer and are not necessarily supported by the staff of ILV. Letters must include signature, address and telephone number. Please limit letters to 150 words. We reserve the right to edit and/or condense. Place in ILV box. Space permitting, whatever was not printed in this issue due to space limitations will be considered for the next

What is LVA's bottom line?

By Ken and Marge Lorraine

What is LVA's bottom line? Is it (a) Keeping the next homeowner's assessment as low as possible; or (b) Getting the biggest bang for our buck?

Common sense tells us (b) is the correct answer, but we operate as if (a) is the correct answer.

For example, last year we repaired streets that were in better condition than some that were not repaired. This is ridiculous. No homeowner should be subjugated to second-class status. Furthermore, it is fiscally irresponsible. Over the years we have had several plans for street maintenance. We should be working toward a goal of maintaining and repairing all our streets at one time. Buying in bulk results in savings. The more streets we repair at one time, the less cost per street.

Why do we insist on doing as much work inhouse as possible? There are times when outside contracting is less expensive and almost always less intrusive on the homeowners.

For example, a few years ago a young man in our employ painted the closet (including cabinets) in the Billiard Room. The contents of the closet and cabinets were strewn about the Billiard Room, spilling over to the outside walkway. This tacky condition existed for weeks. Of course, our employee wasn't painting all that time, but due to his inexperience, he was undu-

ly slow when he was allowed to paint. A contractor could have done the painting in considerably less time, and the Billiard Room would have been torn up for no more than two or three days.

Any LV homeowner who has been here for several years or longer can cite examples similar to those above. Let us work toward getting the biggest bang for our buck and uncluttered, first-class maintenance that makes us all proud.

Some members of this board have inundated us with sound bites and negative innuendoes.

Sound bites: "We must save money. Waste. Huge wage increases." Unless these sound bites are validated with specifics, they are meaningless. Ignore them.

Negative innuendoes: Insinuating shortcomings of previous boards, Enron accounting practices. Many homeowners have taken exceptions with past boards, but not after the fact. Board members should stop making themselves look small by being petty.

Our Village is 30 years old. Most homeowners realize our maintenance costs are going to increase, not decrease. Some board members appear to be afraid to face reality. The only visible waste is trying to keep the next homeowner's assessment as low as possible. Getting the biggest bang for our buck will benefit the homeowners most in the long run.

About Inside Leisure Village

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Inside Leisure Village is written and edited by and for Leisure Village residents exclusively. It is independent of the L.V. Association and its Board of Directors. ILV's content is also independent of the Ventura County Star, Scripps Howard and The E.W. Scripps Company. The Ventura County Star is not responsible for the content of ILV and does not set or monitor its classified advertising or editorial policies. In addition, the policy of ILV shall be to report and publicize sanctioned LV events and activities exclusively.

Deadlines for next month

The Display Advertising deadline for the March 2004 issue will be Monday, February 9, at 5 p.m. Deadline for letters, club news, stories and photos is Saturday, February 14, at 5 p.m. Publication is scheduled for March 5. Typed copy, double-spaced, should be deposited in the ILV box in the Recreation Center hallway. Handwritten material should be submitted early to allow for typing.

Liedeleers

Due to special circumstances, the Liedeleers' meeting schedule is on hold until further notice. For information, please call Selma at 484-8129.

LV Classic Films brings 'Blood and Sand' Feb. 8

By Bob Koster

Jan. 11 was a triumphant showing of the classic, "Casablanca," with Humphrey Bergman and Ingrid Bogart. The crowd gasped at the villainy of the evil Col. Strasser, played by Conrad Veidt, and laughed at the amusing antics of Claude Rains and Szoke Sakall. And Ingrid was never more beautiful or fragile.

Feb. 8 will have a screening of the old silent film, "Blood and Sand," starring Rodolfo Alfonzo Raffaelo Pierre Filibert Guglielmi di Valentina d'Antonguolla, better known to you as Rudolph Valentino. Nita Naldi also stars. As we have been doing, we will show some historical films right after the feature. One is a parody of the movie starring Will Rogers. There is also an introduction by Orson Welles. Valentino was at the very peak of his career with this picture, and it is easy to see why women the world over swooned at the sight of him.

March 14 we will show "Yankee Doodle Dandy" with James Cagney. Cagney came from the stage originally and was a very accomplished hoofer himself. We'll see his art in this film, the life story of the great George M. Cohan. There will be historical footage to accompany this film as well.

April 4, we will show another classic film, possibly "The Jazz Singer" with Al Jolson. Not sure yet. We're trying to find something with a "Palm" theme, as that day is Palm Sunday.

One of the more charitable organizations of the Village has donated the money for us to buy a professional popcorn maker. So for the very first time, we will have a popcorn wagon in the auditorium to serve us fresh-popped popcorn, right out of the popper! Our thanks to the donors, the fine people of this great newspaper, Inside Leisure Village!

As always, the screening is free, as is the popcorn, punch and coffee. Valet parking is available just outside the Rec Center door, providing you bring your own valet. The popcorn will be hot and the coffee prop-

erly tepid.

Screenings are almost always held on the second Sunday of the month in the AR at 7 p.m. This will not be the case on Easter Sunday, April 11, so we had to reschedule for the first Sunday of April. On Easter Sunday this year, that great animals rights organization, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has reserved the AR for a special demonstration against the abuse of bunnies during the Easter ceremonies. I understand that the Camarillo City Council and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors will appear wearing bunny ears and will all be served a meal of vegetarian Easter eggs

Just kidding, folks. The screening will be on April 4 because of Easter Sunday, but the rest of the above paragraph is my own form of balderdash.

of b

55 ALIVE

By Naomi Balfour

The safe driving class in the Village will be taught on Feb. 19 and 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the MPR. Licensed drivers who live in the Village may attend. The benefits are: You will be a safer driver, and you will receive a discount on on your automobile insurance

for two years. It will refresh your memory if you are preparing to take the test for driver's license renewal.

The cost is \$10 per person, and pre-registation and pre-payment by check is required.

For more information call Naomi Balfour or Ruth Miller at 987-8162. Continued from 2

I have carpeting, but I don't dance at home. All I contend is that wooden flooring would be a lot healthier for any dancing. One would be less likely to get injured in the joints, knees, hips or back.

Every center I've been to had wooden floors. We are petitioning to have a fund set up that individuals or clubs can donate to. It is not a strain on our budget in Leisure Village.

We are a caring community, and we should care for those who are affected by injuries or are pained.

Currently, we are dancing on cement flooring which requires replacement, so why not improve the basis for long term benefit?

- Raye Gabriel, V. 25

I udos to Channel 8.
The new format is a great improvement.
Presenting each category

with picture titles in color is a welcome treat. We thank you for all your hard work and read each edition vacarjously

- Irene B. Olson, V. 41

Board President Jack Prosen's message in the January Village Voice compares apples and oranges in the four major areas selected for attention to economy in the budget process.

The only department mentioned was Landscape, which was measured against grand totals for a percentage rather than on an account-by-account basis. The accounts in the budget across the board that are included for all departments are salaries, payroll taxes and employee insurance. But, it is here that the Landscape Department is excluded. Why, when personnel costs are controllable?

In the 2003-2004 budget

(the only data available at the moment) the total for the three accounts for the Landscape Department was \$1,310,556, which is 42 percent of the total for all departments of \$3,081,482. A share of this magnitude indicates an opportunity to do some real analysis — rather than ignore it.

Also of significance is Department 99, which in total represents 38 percent of the entire operating budget — the largest percentage of all departments. Portions of it — insurance and water and sewage — are mentioned for consideration in the message. We must look at every element of Department 99 because of its very size in terms of dollars.

President Prosen said he welcomes any additional thoughts or suggestions we may have, and it is in that spirit that this is offered.

— E. B. Olson, V. 33



e Friday, February 6, 2004

Showtyme brings Travelena to LV

By Jim Brown

LJ & Associates, which represents Mr. Fred Travalena, shared some interesting background information on Showtyme's next featured entertainment for Leisure Village.

The Fred Travalena Show will debut here in Leisure Village on Sunday, March 21, at 2:30 p.m. in the AR.

Entertainer Fred Travalena, known for his impressions and comedy from national television appearances to headline engagements from Atlantic City to Las Vegas, has turned his talents to songwriting.

His most recently released CD is "The Spirit of America," written for Sept. 11, 2001, along with the 2000 release of "The Manhattan Christmas Suite" and his 1998 release of the

CD, "We All Need Love Today." All CDs contain original songs written, produced and sung by Fred Travalena.

Fred was born in The Bronx, N.Y., and raised on Long Island. As a young adult, he served in the Special Services with the U.S. Army. He moved to Los Angeles 22 years ago to build his world of entertainment, and he has delighted audiences worldwide throughout his multifaceted career with his characterizations of highly visible public figures. He has earned nicknames such as "The Man of A Thousand Faces," "Mr. Everybody," and, most recently, "World Famous" by NBC's "Extra."

"I'm looking forward to my show at Leisure Village," Travalena offered. "Lois and I have some family friends



Fred Travalena

who live here, and we're looking forward to seeing them at the show."

Roz Feldman, "The Ticket Lady," expects a near-sellout crowd. Call her at 383-6566 after 10 a.m.; tickets are \$15 for Showtyme Club members and \$18 for all others.

Showtyme meeting Feb. 23

By Jim Brown

The Showtyme business meeting for Monday, Feb. 23, will feature one of the most prolific performers we have presented so far in Leisure Village.

Mr. Harry Middlebrooks is a pianist, singer, songwriter, actor and has credentials spanning 40 years in the entertainment field. Harry worked with some of the greats in show business and wrote and collaborated on more than 300 songs in his illustrious career. Elvis Presley, John Davidson, Glen Campbell, Lawrence Welk, Bobbie Gentry, Buck Owens and many others, including Sammy Davis, Jr., were

accompanied, and their music exposed to Harry Middlebrooks' musical talents.

He is with us this night with his longtime friend and cohort of songs, Terry Gregory. Terry has her own list of celebrity entertainers that she has worked with, including Dolly Parton, the Osmonds, Ricky Skaggs, Hank Williams, Jr. and many others, such as Ben Vereen, Roy Clark, Merv Griffin and Alabama. Terry and Harry are a great duo, and we are very pleased to have them here for our monthly business meeting show on Feb. 23.

Don't forget, it's free, and we serve coffee and cookies too!

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Irving Litrownik, formerly V. 17 Howard French, V. 32 Frank Speigle, V. 24 Jim Eaton, V. 20 Wayne Garlock, V. 42 John B. (Jack) Rigg, V. 31 Rose Ball, formerly V. 20 Lida Geddes, V. 32 Mary Adams, formerly V. 35 Bertha Saffran, formerly V. 35 Margie Bonderman, V. 20 Kurt Godfrey, V. 1 Earl Gordon, V. 34 Dr. Leonard Shultz, V. 11 Linda Goodnick, V. 35

We wish to apologize to Ann Donahue of V. 37 for mistakenly publishing her name on the Memorial Page last month. We wish her many happy, healthy years.

All LV facilities belong to everyone

By Edward I. Hawthorne

I submit that some of us have misconceptions, which I call "myths," regarding our "rights" as homeowners. I have identified a dozen or so of such myths. Three of them have been published in previous issues of ILV.

In this issue, I'd like to address the "rights" of clubs or other homeowner groups regarding LV facilities assigned to them.

We all want our activities to succeed — whether informal or more structured through established clubs of groups. To this end, we justifiably assign some of our facilities or common assets to them for their use. Unfortunately, we some-times lose sight of the fact that these LV properties are collectively owned by us all!

It may shock some of us, but the golf course does not belong to the golfers, the RV lot does not belong to the RV owners who park there, and the tennis courts do not belong to the members of

the Racquet Club! The fact is that all of us own all of the above.

It is sad that failure to appreciate this sometimes gives rise to bad confrontations. Users of facilities should certainly be given the courtesy of "first choice," but their preference is not a right, nor should it prevail if other (non-user) homeowners object.

One sad example occurred several years ago when the RV Club insisted that our Board yield to their "demands as rightful occupants" regarding certain use of the RV Lot. Sadly, our Board failed to recognize that it represents all the homeowners who all own this property.

Cognizance of this 'myth" — keeping in mind the ownership limitations of our groups and clubs - will help a great deal to prevent conflicts and to maintain harmony in our collective life here in our leisure

wish to thank all the people who sent cards, get-well wishes, etc., while I was recuperating from hip surgery at Pleasant Valley Hospital. Everyone was so kind, and it was appreciated. Many thanks. - Rose Fleiner, V. 19

Tikvah Group meets Feb. 20

By Selma Lich

The Tikvah Group will meet on Friday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Ner Ami, 4098 Calle Tesoro, Camarillo, and on the third Friday evening of each month thereafter. All are welcome. For information, please call Selma Lich at 484-8129, or Jean Aird at 482-6660.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Bereavement Support Group meets every Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Lanai or Sun Room. We support each other. Come and join us. For information, call 482-6660.

The Caregivers Support Group meets on the first Friday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. in the Lanai Room.

If you are dealing with dementia, Alzheimer's, strokes, etc., come and meet Mr. Jim Sheldon, our facilitator from the Camarillo Health Care Center. For information, call 482-6660.



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The 100 percent solution

By Joseph Benti

Actress Sophia Loren once said, "Sex appeal is 50 percent what you've got and 50 percent what people think you've got." Trying to figure out

Trying to figure out exactly what percentages mean when people start throwing them around requires that we have 100 percent certainty that they are not trying to pull the wool over our eyes, or that somebody hasn't pulled the wool over theirs.

If you join the few dozen people who attend open meetings of the Board of Directors or watch them broadcast on Channel 8, the chances are good you'll hear somebody throwing percentages around, often unchallenged. And one thing will usually be certain, whatever the speaker wants to prove, he will come up with a percentage, often pulled out of the air, that proves exactly what he wants us to believe.

It is a reminder of the old saying, "Figures don't lie, but liars can figure." That is not to say that anybody at the Village meetings is intentionally lying; but the percentages are good that somebody is often using percentages only to prove themselves right, and those who disagree, wrong.

One familiar conflicting set of percentages we often hear involves the Cost of Living and our monthly assessments. In a later column, we hope to set the record straight on exactly what those figures (percentages) are and what they mean.

But for now, we would like to bring to your notice one person whose word on percentages is almost always on target: Pat Busch, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Busch consistently comes across as a thoughtful man of few and well-chosen words and occasional percentages that he does not offer up unless they mean exactly what he can prove they mean.

Here are a couple of his percentages that we can bank on: Workers Comp is more than doubling from \$273,000 to \$551,000 a year (yes, 102 percent!). Our contribution to the health plan of Village workers is going up as well.

Though the final numbers for employee health benefits are not in yet, get ready for a big spike. In the 2003-2004 budget, there was \$324,000 for benefits, but it appears that benefits in the 2004-2005's will show a 60 percent increase.

Questions raised by the use of percentages not only are complicated, but they represent real money. When homeowners hear percentages being tossed around like compliments at a beauty pageant, they would be well-advised to make sure they understand exactly what those percentages really mean.

Remember, on average, each of us actually owns 2,136th share in this place we call home.

Should anybody ask, what percentage is that, really?

Pull yourself up and say proudly, "Why I own 0.0468 percent of Leisure Village!"

Women's Club raises

\$17,550

By Donna Duke and Dorothy Swallow

The Women's Club Workshop and Trading Post was a huge success, supporting our communities.

The workshop, consisting of 30 to 35 women, works all year round creating handmade items for their two big events: the March Spring Fling and the October Bazaar. The workshop sold items totaling \$5,000.

The Trading Post consists of 25 to 30 women who sell the donated items on the second Thursday of each month. The items are all donated by our residents. This year, the Trading Post sold more than \$17,000 in goods.

These two projects allowed the club to donate to various outside charities within Ventura County and Leisure



Through the Women's Club Workshop, Brigitte Dickinson donates her talent to making these decorations that sold at the October Bazaar.

Village Association the sum of \$17,550.

Listed are those who received donations: LV Life Lines (2), Camarillo Hospice, Equestrian Therapy, LV Food Distribution, Project Linus, St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital emergency room, Camarillo Academic Olympics, Braille Institute, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses, City of Hope, St. John's Healthy Beginnings, Cinemagic (Pleasant

Valley Education
Foundation), Boys and
Girls Club of Camarillo,
LVA for the architectural
drawings of Recreation
Center plantings, additional benches with cover and
an ice machine for the
Rec Center.

We would be remiss if we did not thank our residents for donating the items that allow us to support outside charities, LVA and our residents living in this wonderful place we call home.

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Continued from 1

newscasts about the disas-

Those who feel capable of using a small, lightweight fire extinguisher should have such a unit mounted in a handy location, such as on the inside of the closet door nearest to the front door exit.

In addition to all of this. everyone should write out a new Year 2004 Medicine List for the Vial of Life inside your refrigerator, including location of medicines, dosages and other pertinent, updated information for a paramedic to quickly retrieve and put to use. Some Village Coordinators have reported that they have found residents who have not changed their medical instruction sheets in these vials for as long as a decade. Other residents have fire extinguishers that are more than six years old and may not be functional.

Some new residents might not fully appreciate why the ESO - an organization of more than 400 dedicated volunteers should be so insistent upon constantly encouraging our elderly population to be prepared. Leisure Village has more than 3,000 elderly people with various levels of capability. All of us need to seriously focus on our personal safety and welfare. In the middle of a real disaster, the City of Camarillo could not help everyone in the city at the same moment. We need to be prepared to save ourselves.

Similar safety exercises and training programs go on in all sorts of schools, communities and business environments all of the time. Also, your ESO volunteers need to practice their assorted training exercises so that there will always be an organized group to take action at any hour of the day or night.

The residents also need

to understand how to prepare and react to various emergency situations. It certainly would not make much sense to try to muster, organize and instruct an untrained group of retired citizens during a disaster in the middle of the night to meet the potentially severe needs of other Villagers.

For the Feb. 26 drill, several things will be in your possession. Every resident will have received at least a week ahead of time:

- The red-ribbon "A-OK" flag to display in front of each home on that Thursday. Some may need to remember where the Velcro flag patch is located on the house.
- A special instruction package about your personal preparation responsibilities for this drill.
- · A new data sheet requesting information about each individual's needs to help the ESO bring its emergency database up to date. ESO keeps an ongoing computerized database about the bed-ridden and the disabled people in every Village. This must be kept up to date and accurate.

For the very many new residents who have arrived since the very successful October drill, your ESO maintains:

- Radio contact over emergency networks with all of the major disaster services throughout the county - using certified Amateur Radio Ham operators even when phone and power systems are down and interactive radio communications throughout all the Villages with its Command Post. More than 45 Village Coordinators and assistants practice weekly with their portable Cobra radio units and with the Ham operators.
- Special Need Teams with medical and first-aid personnel.
- Extra Support Units for search and rescue and other volunteer services throughout the Villages.

You need to know that

ESO exists for your safety and protection - not its own — and that it practices weekly to make things better for every one of you. It definitely deserves and needs your full cooperation and support during the important Village-wide safety drills.



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CATCH-UP

Continued from 1

Either we pay as we go or we find a way to stretch the payments into the future.

Since the Village does not have a big credit card on which to kite its annual costs, successive boards discovered that one way to keep the annual costs down was to "schedule" work and payments so that this or that job — which at one time might have been done in one year or five - could be stretched to as much as 20 years, which was what was done with street maintenance.

Or, as with some landscaping, a previous board simply eliminated altogether some needed and customary landscaping. In exchange for the dollar savings that year and thereafter, we now have more unsightly, browned-out lawns and more and more bog-like places in the golf course.

Citing the general rule of a Realtor's thumb, Prosen says, "Estimates show that landscaping is 25 percent of a home's value." And, he notes, landscaping takes the biggest chunk of our annual budget, 12 percent, not counting labor. In turn, that is one big chunk of our monthly homeowner's fee.

Trees, for example, are

the single most costly element in the ongoing expense of landscaping and maintenance. Just consider the 8,000 trees in Leisure Village, for example. Many are not native to Southern California, an arid, semitropical area. Those lofty evergreen Eastern Firs may be the stuff of pretty postcards, but they are downright environmentally unfriendly and can have a sledgehammer effect on tight budgets. Their aggressive and massive root systems are always on the hunt for water to feed their insatiable thirst, and their droppings demand cleanup year in, year out, no matter how

much is in the budget.

Further, it is estimated no matter what the tree. pruning and cleanup alone runs an average of \$75 per tree, per year. Multiply that by, say, half the trees that need pruning, on a yearly schedule, and the cost could go as high as \$300,000. Spreading that work out, paying the big bills over a longer period of time, means keeping monthly homeowner fees low.

Prosen says he has begun looking into a claim by some homeowners that there are communities similar to Leisure Village in Southern California that have lower homeowner

No matter what he finds, nobody can miss what's happening to our lawns. While part of the problem was the use of the wrong fertilizer, Prosen feels the bigger culprit is the failure to continue thatching and mulching, which were cut out of the budget in the past to save money. Now, we have to do the work in the present, not the future, just to catch up and stay even with Mother Nature.

Village streets are another major element in the "catch up" game. Prosen notes that engineering consultants have recommended a five-year street maintenance program. Currently, the Village is on a 20-year program - one of the solutions a previous board used to spread out payments to keep down monthly homeowner fees.

Now, Prosen claims, that bill is coming due with a vengeance. If we are to catch up, he says, "We have to pay now to bring all the streets up to par and then get back on a tighter schedule than the 20-year model, somewhere between five to seven years.

Working against us is the looming reality of the aforementioned increases in Workers Comp costs and ever-increasing health care costs, staggering reminders to those who may have forgotten that when we bought in the Village, we became more than homeowners. We also became employers, a fact that none of us will be able to overlook this year.

Workers Compensation costs for our employees is going to jump from the current approximately \$250,000 a year to somewhere around \$575,000 a vear. And our share of our employee's health care costs also are going up, the exact figures still to be determined.

There are creative ways to reduce our costs, like water costs for the golf course, which soon will be cut by 200 percent, just by switching to recycled water.

Prosen notes that additional savings could also be made by, "piggybacking on services already being contracted by the City of Camarillo.'

The economic realities. and their effects on our wallets, argue for increased awareness of the political reality of Leisure Village. As shareholders and employers, we also have to catch up with what's going on with our business.



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By Ginny Naspo

The Players Guild Club is on a roll for the new year of 2004! We have a full year ahead of us of great entertainment provided by our own talented and versatile members. It is so satisfying to see the list of volunteers growing each day who are willing to lend their talents to the upcoming monthly workshop programs and the yearly productions.

Last year, our membership list was over 400. Let's keep raising that number for this year! If you haven't already signed up and paid your dues, don't forget to do so at the next meeting. Come and enjoy an evening of fun, refreshments and entertainment each third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the A.R. Bring your neighbors too!

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 19. The workshop program will be a musical and comedy script titled "Love & Marriage, As Time Goes By."

We are privileged to have Joan Johnson back. She has directed and produced so many wonderful Players Guild productions in the past 30 years. Because of her hard work, talents and direction, each and every one of the shows was a great success. She will direct the February workshop, Ginny Naspo will be script writer and producer, and Ann Steigerwald will be co-producer. Add to that a great cast and it will sure to be a very entertaining production and evening. Don't miss it!

Rehearsals for the April comedy play called "Play On" — John Bravos as director and Helen Hartman as producer — are well on their way. Be prepared for an evening of good old fashioned belly laughs! This is a funny, funny, play. The excellent cast is as follows: Dick Berman, Cathy Friedman, Max Heller, Doris Seigel, Joyce Belcher, Bob Gibson, Don Seidler, Annie Robinson, Ida Zeller and Millie Murphy.

Performances will be Wednesday, April 21, through Saturday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 25, at 2 p.m.

L.V. New York Club

By Bob Sklarz

At the January meeting, the new officers were installed: Marty Hasen, President; Alan Caldwell and Lou Schwab, Vice Presidents; Sylvia Mopper, Treasurer; Ida Zeller, Recording Secretary; Florence Sklarz, Financial Secretary; Leatrice Posner, Correspondence Secretary.

Outgoing president Roz Gleimer thanked all the outgoing officers and committee chairs and presented a commendation to Ben Perry for his work in publishing the "New York Newsletter," and to Lou and Harriet Schwab for their leadership with the Hospitality Committee.

The members were then

Please see CLUB NEWS on 12

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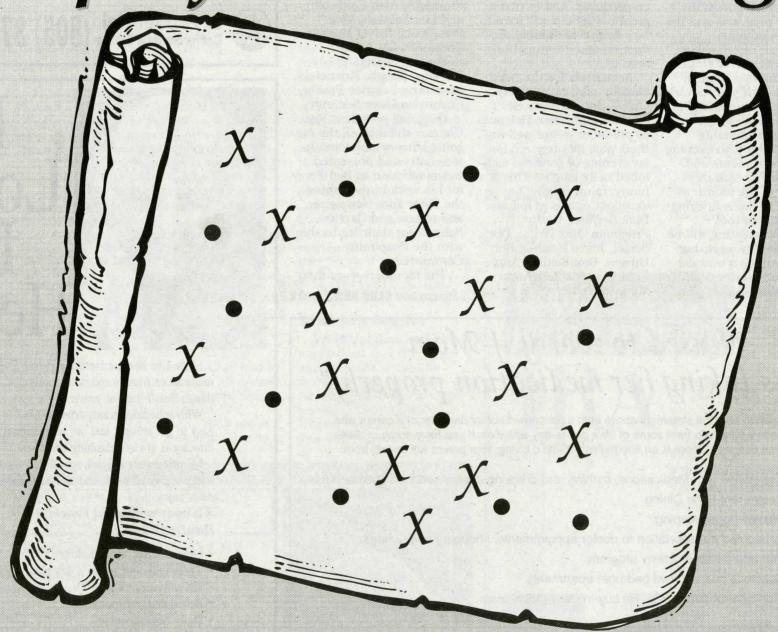
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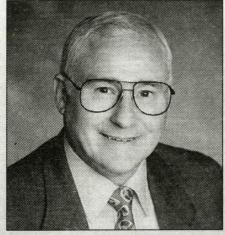
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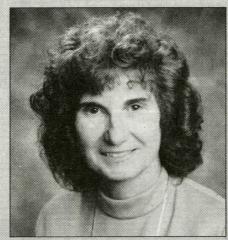
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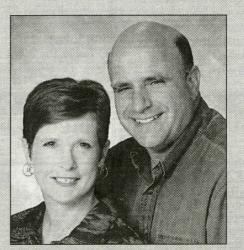
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At the February meeting, a tape of New York City's Central Park was shown, after which members told of their personal experiences at the park.

For those who have not vet paid their \$5 dues for 2004, make out a check to LVNYC and bring it to the next meeting, Thursday, March 4.

Channel 8

By Art Kaufman

If you have not been watching Channel 8 lately, you are missing out! We have a colorful new look. pleasing and easy on the eyes. Color, when it enhances, and pictures of our picture-perfect Village emphasize coming events. If vour club would like to preface your message with a picture, let us know and we will gladly take the picture and place it with your message.

We will continue to telecast the open board meetings the first Monday of the month live, tape it, and telecast the tape the following Friday at 10 a.m. We are on the air Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. and again at 5 p.m. with special programs, movie reviews, book reviews, "What Was My Line?" and programs from Showtyme, Players Guild, Keyboard Club, Chorale and specials from the Women's Club. An occasional promotion tape, such as a promo for the Showtyme Club, is also shown.

We have something for everyone, including a Web site to get to us. And, of course, the message board keeps you informed of late news from our board along with the regular messages from the more than 50 clubs announcing their events.

So, repeating my opening words, "Don't miss out!" Watch Channel 8.

Solo Club

By Marion Jayne

Correction: To keep afloat, the Solo Club had to raise the dues to \$5. Please send check to Doris Walton, 25308 Village 25.

Officers for 2004 are as follows: President, Marion

Jayne; Vice-presidents, Gladys Gray and Mitzi Allison; Secretary, Cleo Cooney; Treasurer and Membership, Doris Walton; Social, Bettie Nerger, Hazel Gainer and Mary Ralph; Publicity, Marion Jayne: Telephones, Helen Ayanian,

Plans for 2004 include and anything we can think up for members' enjoyment.

The Valentine Potluck the A.R. at 6 p.m. Members to share. Initials A-F bring a

The next general meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. meeting, followed by social,

Don't sit home alone. Join up. Call Marion Jayne at 484-5112 for more information

Joe Dishlip, 482-3701, who will also be distributing fertilizer and the soil amend-

It has been reported that vegetables as well as tools have been stolen from the garden. We know that we have had rabbits stealing some veggies, but not the type as reported, and also it's unlikely they would be taking tools. Seriously though, this is unfortunate and should stop. Incidentally, rabbit traps, having been OK'd in our

chased and will be set. Again, don't forget to put on your calendar our next meeting, March 5, at 2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Happy gardening!

budget, have been pur-

Garden Club

By Naomi Balfour

On Feb. 19, the Garden Club will meet in the MPR at 9:30 a.m. Socializing and goodies come first, then the business meeting and program follow. The speaker will be Jennie Williams from the Thousand Oaks Senior Center, who will show us the joys and convenience of crockpot cooking.

Members may pay their \$5 dues for 2004 at that time. Invite a neighbor or a friend in the Village to come with you.

Veterans Club

By Martin Alfred

We started the new year with a very interesting talk by our friend George Compton (Col. Ret.), head of the Ventura County Veterans Services. He brought us up to date on veterans benefits.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the MPR. We have invited Zack Taylor, an ex-Navy pilot, to tell us

Please see CLUB NEWS on 13

Farmers Club

announced that the soil amendments should be delivered any day now. Again please note that Jim Cooke, 383-9911, will rototill your patch for \$10. You may schedule this with

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Inside Leisure Village

Friday, February 6, 2004

dining out at nice restaurants, potlucks, bingo, picnics and catered dinners

will be held on Feb. 13 in main dish, G-M bring dessert, M-Z bring a salad.

20, in the Sun Room at noon. It's a brown bag lunch, a 1 p.m. business cards, games, etc.

By Marjorie Deniston

President Kenney Nelson

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about his many years living on a sailboat and seeing the world.

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Woodshop

By Martin Alfred

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L.V. Chorale

By Elise Perlmutter

How about being our Valentine by joining our chorale? We meet every Monday in the MPR from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and enjoy putting on two concerts a year. Our next concert will be sometime this spring. Hope to see you soon.

For further information, call 484-2492.

Computer Club

By John Stanton

At the January meeting, our new President of the Leisure Village Computer Club, David Harris, introduced the other officers for the 2004 year: Vice Presidents John Stanton and Gerry Kaplan; Treasurer Bob Gross; and Secretary Ben Perry. President Harris then described the goals and projects for 2004.

The Computer Lab is to be redesigned; the club will acquire three computers from Dell, loaded with Microsoft's latest operating system, Windows XP; and update another six of the existing computers to Windows XP. They will also acquire a new Mac system and necessary software for all systems. Members will have a choice of nine PC computers running Windows XP, six PC computers running Windows 98, and six Mac systems to utilize in the Computer Lab. Extensive training classes on Windows XP are now being prepared for our

members.

The monthly meeting day for the Leisure Village Computer Club is to be changed to the fourth Friday of each month. This change was made to enable the club to get vendors as presenters at the monthly meeting. The club has joined with four other area clubs so that the combined membership will make it attractive to obtain vendor presentations on consecutive days at each club's monthly meeting. A representative from Adobe is scheduled to make a presentation of Photoshop Elements at our next meeting on Feb. 27.

The LV Computer Club hopes to involve the entire Leisure Village community in computing in this age of information technology and invites all in the Village to participate in our special interest groups and trainings being offered to our club members.

Rhythmette Club

By Jean Aird

The Rhythmettes meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the AR. We have some new instruments, and we need new people. Come and have fun. It's good therapy. For Information, call 482-6660.

L.V. Mens Golf Association

By Mannie Abbate

The annual Old Timer's

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Reunion Luncheon and Mid-Month Tournament will be held on Feb. 10. If you still don't have a ticket, call Jack Kirkland. He says it is never too late. This event has become very popular because it gives the old timers who don't play anymore a chance to meet with old friends. It is also popular because of the price. A \$2 lunch will bring them out like nothing else in Leisure Village.

We will also have the

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Our President, Bob Hinkel, is recovering from bypass surgery and we pray he will be able to attend the next monthly meeting on Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. Come early and let Bob fill you in on the details. We welcome him to the "zipper" club. Get well quick, Bob.

We will play Mountain View Golf Course on Feb. 19. Cost is \$23 plus cart fee. It's \$12.50 for a cart if you are not a senior member, or \$2.50 if you are. We

play at Cam Springs Golf Course on March 10. Watch Channel 8 and the notices in the newly renovated display cabinets at the course for details.

In March we will be looking for nominations from the membership for men to run for election to the board. The nominating committee will be announced at the next meeting. Let them know if you are interested or if you would like to nominate another member for the job. It would be nice to get some "young blood" too.

Billiard Club

By Milan Weiss

The Billiard Club is off to a flying start this year. Some new things will occur, such as George Nolte's newly developed special

handicap tournament. It is being worked on in the Billiard Room, and when it is perfect, it should be really fair and interesting to all players. It is almost there and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Additionally, more lessons are planned for beginners in March. And both an 8-Ball and a 9-Ball tournament are scheduled for spring. There is no question this club will keep you as busy as you want to be. Watch the bulletin board in the Billiard Room for the latest events. Between that, this monthly article and Channel 8, you should never miss a thing. And, there's also the summer Pienic in the Park and the Ice Cream Social

Plan on attending the Tuesday, Feb. 24, monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the MPR. The 2004 annual

Handbook and Roster will be available for you to take home. Also, enjoy a good cup of coffee or a glass of wine, cookies and cake after the meeting while socializing with friends. We'd love to see you there!

L.V. Exercise Group

By Milt Mankoff

Members of the Leisure Village Exercise Group will enjoy a special excursion to Moorpark College on Feb. 9. The big attraction is the Wild Animal Program for the training of zoo attendants and specialists. Included will be a demonstration, in an outdoor theatre setting, by students handling various animals and birds. This will be followed by an escorted tour of the beautiful grounds and

zoo enclosures. Members of the LV Camera Club are invited to come along and take advantage of the many photo opportunities. Lunch at a nearby restaurant will complete this excursion.

All residents are welcome to join the exercise program each Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 9 a.m. at the Pool Pavilion. Dues are only \$3 annually. "Start your day the exercise way!"

Single Active Seniors

By Joni Neckerman

Zelda Greentree was reelected president of the Single Active Seniors. Her new board included Bud Maron, who has since retired his position following his Jan. 10 marriage. An inveterate bicyclist and

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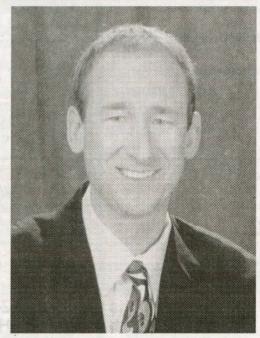
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Paul J. Dougherty, M.D.

swimmer, Bud was riding his bike along Village streets when he first met his bride, Baby, a native of the Philippines who works here as a caregiver. They reside in Village 3.

Other board members are Nancy Kuebel, vice president; Sharon O'Connor, treasurer; Virginia Dunnion and Joni Neckerman, secretaries; Marion Baxter, refreshments; Barbara Chapman and Bonnie Comer, publicity; Ruth Weiss, program; and Allen Caldwell, movies.

The Singles (minus Bud the Bridegroom) will attend a dine-out Feb. 10 at the Sportsman Restaurant, Camarillo. Sharon O'Connor is taking reservations at 389-6834 until Feb. 7. Entree choices are top sirloin, teriyaki chicken breast or salmon.

SAS meetings at 7 p.m. are open to all single residents. Upcoming are a Feb. 17 movie night featuring "Secondhand Lions" with Michael Caine and Robert Duvall, card games on Feb. 24, and News and Views on March 2.

Further information and locations may be found on Village bulletin boards, Channel 8, and by calling the president at 389-9694.

Jazzercise

By Cathy Friedman

Jazzercise is going strong. Now that the holidays are over, we are getting down to business and want to lose the weight we might have gained over the said holidays.

We are still meeting in the AR every Wednesday, from 9 to 10 a.m., and are having a great time. Come and either join us or sit and watch to see if you like theclass.

Jazzercise continually varies choreography and music to bring a sense of new energy to each class. You will feel great, look terrific and bring new energy to your life.

Think about it and then come and join the fun.

L.V. Womens Golf Association

By Rose Abbate

Our golf association meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month. We meet in the AR. Refreshments are served at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 2 p.m. Bridge players meet in the Garden Room on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. except on golf association meeting days.

Golf begins at 8:30 a.m. now until the spring so bridge will start at 1:30 p.m.

The men hosted another successful Chili Bowl Party on Sunday, Jan. 18.

The "senior" tournament scheduled for March 3 and 10 will be open to all members over 55.

Regulation golf will be at Olivas Park Golf Course on Feb. 19. First start is at 9 a.m. Fee for golf and cart is \$33. Sign up at the golf shack.

We sponsor the 19th Hole Party this time. We have invited Marlene Nord to entertain us with her country music. The meeting will be open to all Villagers and guests. This would be a good time to invite potential new members. The Men's and Women's Clubs have agreed that we must now charge a \$1 fee. We can't keep subsidizing the expenses forever. We will provide soda, ice and snacks, but BYOB.

The winners for January were as follows: 18ers: low gross, T. Nishizaka 63; low net, F. Mead 73-22=51. Niners Front: low gross, Shige Kuroki 39. low net, C. Milman 43-15=28. Niners Back: low gross, Shige Kuroki and Helen McGinnis, 35; low net, Helen McGinnis, 35-11=24.

See you on the links on Wednesdays!

Drama Guild

By Cathy Friedman

The Drama Club meets every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Garden Room. Everyone is welcome, so don't be shy. Come in and give it a try.

We had an exciting month with a new assignment: We had to create a whole scene from a joke. It was a very interesting assignment. You would not believe the things that our leader, John Bravos, comes up with. We love it all and are happy to take on any and all assignments that he can dream up. Come on in and say hello.

Ceramics Plus

By Martin Ettinger

By the time this is published, the renovation of the Ceramic Room will probably be completed. We look

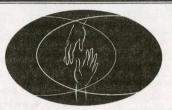
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Inside Leisure Village

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On the fourth Thursday of January, we had our annual bagel brunch in the MPR. In February, we resume our monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month in the MPR at 10 a.m.

Writers Club

The club meets every Monday from 9 a.m to noon in the GR. Once again we wish to welcome the Writers Class, which is off to a flying start. You are all welcome to join us for a friendly critique, or just to hear some of our efforts. You will be joining in the fun of creativity. Hope to see you soon.

Saturday Night Dance

By Jean Aird

We meet every Saturday from 8 to 10:30 p.m. in the AR. We have great tapes, foxtrot, cha-cha, rhumba, tango and many other dances. We have a great committee that helps play the tapes, decorate, and serve refreshments, all for a 50-cent donation.

Dancing and socializing is good for your health. Don't sit home; come to our

dances.

On Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, we will have the Cotillion Dancers entertaining for a \$1 donation. For information, call 482-6660.

Sing-a-long Group

By Jules Nayfack

Are you a recent move-in or longtime resident? It makes no difference. Now is the time for you to come to the Sing-a-long. You will meet the nicest bunch of people in the Village who will make you and your guests feel right at home. Being able to sing is not important. Wanting to have fun and enjoy life is. Give us a try. You won't be sorry. Join us in the AR Feb. 9 and Feb. 23. Music starts at 7 p.m., singing and fun starts at 7:30 p.m.

Racquet Club

By Anne Wolfson

The Racquet Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the MPR. All Villagers are invited, especially paddle tennis players and tennis players! Dues are \$5 a year and are payable now to our membership chairman, Kay

Our slate of officers for

2004 are: President, Phil Belsky; Co-Vice Presidents, Bob and Betty Kumler; Secretary, Betty Stallman; Treasurer, Fran Greenwald Frank.

At our January meeting, John Gary, who is in the insurance business, gave a very informative talk on property insurance in Leisure Village, followed by a question-and-answer ses-

Our next meeting will be Feb. 11, so come, socialize, learn and enjoy our super refreshments!

Leisure Village Travel

By Eugene Foxman

We are conducting a survev to determine interest in going to the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach this summer. Please drop by the Travel Office or call us at 482-8062. There's no obligation on your part.

Here are currently available trips: Feb. 11-12: Pismo Beach, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. Feb. 16-18: The Golden Nugget in Las Vegas. March 3-5: Backroads of Nevada and Death Valley. March 18: Whale Watching. March 22-24: Primm, Nev. July 9-16: Cruise to Alaska.

For more details watch Channel 8 or visit the

Please see CLUB NEWS on 17

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Inside

Travel Office, which is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 to 11:45 a.m. The phone number is 482-8062

Country Western Line Dancers

By Jean Thomson

Welcome to a new year! We invite you to join our line dancing workshop that involves stretching, joint movements, brain reaction, balance, deep breathing and friendly camaraderie. We would like to have more participants at our sessions, male and female, young and old. Instructions are given 15 minutes before class time, which is on Tuesdays from 3 to 4.30 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Our excellent teacher is Rhoda Smithkin. For more information, call her at 484-8132.

International Folk Dancing

By Raye Gabriel

International Folk Dance classes are Mondays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in AR. Virginia Calihan will lead, review and teach new dances.

We had election of officers and a party Jan. 26. Call 482-5621 for more information.

Beginning Bridge

By Raye Gabriel

Rank Beginning Bridge Classes are Fridays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in G.R. Raye Gabriel is the

instructor.

Join us for review of Bidding and Play of the Hands. We are currently learning order of suits, point count and when to open and how to open and when to use Convenient Minors.

Call 383-0130 for more information.

Women's Club

By JoAnn Burens

Our March meeting on Thursday, March 4, at 1:30 p.m. in the AR will feature a presentation by Dorothea Phelan from the Ventura County Historical Museum. She will tell us about the history of the Irish here in our own county. It will be a good way to get in the spirit for our own celebrations on March 17!

Refreshments and social hour will follow the program.

Remember that our workshop meets every Tuesday in the MPR from 9 to 11 a.m. Be sure to stop in there and see what they're making and find a treasure you can take home, too.

Camera Club

By Jerry Cohen

The January competition's assigned category was "People." The first-place winner was Marlene Votion, followed by Sam Weinstein in second place and Milt Mankoff earning third place. Honorable Mentions were taken by Cathy Friedman and Betty Murray. In the Open category, the winning slide was by Milt Mankoff. Second place was by Bill Robinson and third place was by Jerry Cohen. Honorable Mentions were earned by Betty Murray and Judy Spector.

The new digital photography division is growing rapidly in popularity, and winning first place in the unmodified class was Sam

Weinstein, followed by Vic Fledge in second place and Louise Waln taking third place honors. In the modified class, the winner was Gerry Kaplan, followed by Bill Robinson in second place, and Jerry Spector took third place. Judge for the evening was expert photographer, John Blanchard.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the great photography shown on competition nights the first Wednesday of each month in the MPR. Program nights are on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and refreshments follow.

Keyboard Club

By Joyce Turner

The Agoura Hills Harmony Chorus presentation was spectacular entertainment.

On Feb. 20 at 12:30 p.m. there will be musical entertainment and a luncheon in the AR. Tickets are on sale Monday from 9 to 11 a.m. and Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. in the AR. Members are \$10; non-members are \$13. Hope to see you there.

Village Painters

By Dorothy Hirsch

The Village Painters met Feb. 4 to make Valentine's cards for the children of Casa Pacifica. Last year was this writer's first time to participate in this project, and I found it really reward-

For the months of February and March, we will be presenting Aurelie Zackery's paintings. If you saw her last presentations

Please see CLUB NEWS on 18

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RV Club

By Charlie Hartman

(928) 564-2650.

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crypt, Forest Lawn

Bill and Marge Deniston did the planning for last month's RV Dinner at the Hometown Buffet in Oxnard. It was our first dinner of the new year and a great way for members to enjoy each other's company.

The next RV Club meet-

ing is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the MPR at 7:30 p.m. Please come and help plan activities for the new year.

Concerned Homeowners

By Ed Olson

The Leisure Village Concerned Homeowners Club did not meet in January because of the press of the holidays. However, a full and productive schedule of monthly meetings will be held in the year ahead.

The club will meet on

Thursday, Feb. 12, in the MPR at 7:30 p.m. The occasion is a pizza party in honor of Lincoln's birthday. Little business will be conducted. There will be no charge to members who have paid their dues for this year. All others attending will be asked to pay \$3.

If anyone wishes to be a dues-paying member, mail a check for \$5 to Treasurer Sylvia Stoller, 13327 Village 13, Camarillo, CA 93012. Checks should be made to the Concerned Homeowners Club, and if received no later than Feb. 10, your pizza will be free.

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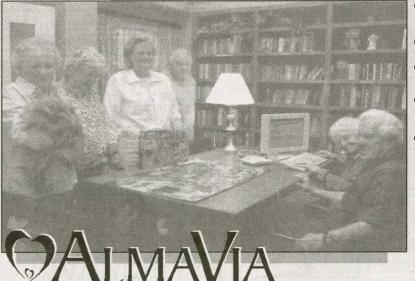
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If you are "spring cleaning" or moving, I buy items from the 1930s, '40s, '50s & '60s. References. Call anytime. Karen, 373-0605.

Please see CLASSIFIED on 19

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Inside Leisure Village

Friday, February 6, 2004

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