

MUTUAL 16 MATTERS



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Mutual 16 — Leisure World, Silver Spring, MD 20906

Chris Everett — chris@ceverettonline.com

Web Site — www.lwm16.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The end of the year is always a great time to reflect and give thanks. Our Board members spend many hours working to keep the Mutual both financially sound and visually pleasing. **Chris Everett** makes our newsletter a fountain of information. **Paula Seebode** and her park committee members keep our park area beautiful year-round. **Virginia Rehbehn** and her group of hardy residents deliver both the newsletters and the *Leisure World News* right to everyone's mail-slot, and **Ellen Darr** sends out our Robocalls. Our Assistant for Property Management **Alicia Drummond** helps to steer us in the right direction on numerous matters. Thanks to all.

December also brought an end to the falling leaves. We approved a proposal for Mutual-wide gutter cleaning, and that's already been completed!

The cold weather has also caused the usual influx of unwanted visitors: **MICE!** The Mutual does not pay to eradicate mice. Residents are best advised to set traps now and check them often.

The board recently approved money for the construction of a "Little Library" to be placed in the park. This is kind of an unofficial lending library which will hopefully fill the void caused by the closing of both the Leisure World library as well as the Montgomery County library because of COVID-19. Look for more details in the future.

On behalf of the Mutual 16 Board, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

GOLF REPORT 2020

Don't put your golf clubs away! Even with December's chilly days, there is no need to stop playing golf. The course is open year round, weather permitting.

Golf is the only activity – besides walking alone – that is naturally social distanced. It has enjoyed a banner year. The golf course is the only activity generating revenue above what was budgeted for the year in Leisure World. This year we will be more than 4,000 rounds above normal – a 30% increase – and that number was held down due to restrictions on the number of people who can play and ride in golf carts. This increase in rounds generated revenue \$80K above and beyond budget projections. There were many days when we were completely sold out. All of this in spite of being closed for 47 days in spring.

Some on-going issues are proposed renovations and the concern about walkers. No golf course in the country allows walkers during operation because it is dangerous for both the walkers and golfers. The golf course is over 50 years old and has drainage issues. The proposals for renovating the golf course and fixing the problems are waiting for funding.

Doug Allston

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Mutual 16 consists of 95 one level, two- and three-bedroom units, and approximately 120 residents who are expected to take some responsibility and initiative to be prepared in case of emergencies.

BASIC PREPARATIONS

Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at least once a year. Prepare a disaster supply kit that contains food, water, and supplies for at least three days. Consider having supplies for sheltering in place for at least two weeks as well as a battery-operated radio, corded telephone, and one or more working flashlights.

Keep informed: Radio alert systems can be found on AM 630, AM 1500, FM 107.7, FM 103.5, and FM 88.5.

GO-BAG

You should assemble a Go-Bag in case of an emergency evacuation. A duffle bag or a roller suitcase works well. ***YOU MUST BE ABLE TO CARRY OR ROLL IT.*** Suggested items include:

- Several changes of weather-appropriate clothes and sturdy shoes
- Cash in small bills
- Hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, brush/comb, deodorant, soap, wash cloth, make-up, etc.)
- Eyeglasses/contacts and solution (if applicable)
- Comfort items (books, photo album, puzzle book, wine)
- Cell phone charger
- Contact info of friends/family
- At least a 3-day supply of needed medications

- Copies of important documents in waterproof bag (Medicare/Medicaid insurance cards, photo ID, proof of address, marriage and birth certificates, copies of credit/debit cards)
- Face masks, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes

In case of FIRE:

- Leave your home immediately at first sign of any fire. Take your cell phone or cordless phone with you. ***DO NOT TRY TO FIGHT THE FIRE***
- IMMEDIATELY call 911
- Alert neighbors attached to your unit
- Follow instructions of the first responders

In case of HURRICANE:

- Stay in your home and away from windows until storm is over
- Listen to local TV and radio for instruction regarding local conditions before leaving your home

In case of TORNADO:

- Stay in your home when a tornado WATCH is announced
- Immediately go to an interior room or hallway and stay away from all windows when a tornado WARNING is announced
- Additional information is on the FEMA website at www.fema.gov or the Maryland Emergency Management Agency website at memm.maryland.gov.

Paula Seebode

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

BETSY DAVIS

Betsy Davis of 15548 Prince Frederick Way, has lived a globe-trotting life. She was an Army brat and had lived in Kentucky, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Maryland, Kansas, and Germany by the time she was 16 years old. She went to 13 schools in 12 years. At 17, she and her family were stationed in Brazil. Looking at Rio de Janeiro from the ship, Betsy thought she had arrived in paradise. She immediately fell in love with the people, the language, and the culture of Brazil. She returned to the US for college. Upon graduating, she became a Peace Corps volunteer, an ambition she had had since she was 15 years old. She spent 3 years volunteering in an Amazon health project in a village of 798 people in northern Brazil.

She came back to the US to work, counseling exchange students. Next, she returned to South America to work for the Peace Corps as the first woman country director of Ecuador. After that, she went to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and began a new career as consultant or staff for international organizations and the US government. All her jobs involved a great deal of traveling, taking her to 36 countries on five continents. She “retired” in 2010 but immediately went back to work part-time for the Peace Corps, working from home before it was a thing. She moved to Leisure World in 2016.

Betsy loves languages, seeing the world, and old friends. She still speaks fluent Portuguese and Spanish; travels whenever she can; and gets together with friends she has had for over fifty years. Betsy’s guiding philosophy is to promote respect and peace among all people... and dogs. Since 1984, she has adopted 6 golden retrievers, one Labrador retriever, and one beagle. She always adopts older dogs because she says “they don’t deserve to be dumped after they’ve given their whole lives to some humans – and older dogs are always so grateful.” As well they should be, because as Pigeon Batz, Betsy’s neighbor says, “Betsy gives the dogs a 12-star-hotel life.”

No matter the weather, you can often see Betsy walking Sophie, the beagle, throughout Mutual 16. Be sure to say hi to Betsy and give Sophie a scratch behind the ears, no treats necessary.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Happy Birthday

Judite Fernandes Nov 22
15407 Prince Frederick Way

Chris Everett Dec 21
3302 Solomons Court

Mary Griffin Dec 26
3301 Solomons Court

Julia Repeta Dec 27
3319 Solomons Court

New Neighbors

Don & Jo Phillips
3306 Solomons Court

Janet Gilbride
15403 Prince Frederick Way

Recent Sales

3427 St. Leonards Court

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Some neighbors have been here for less than a year – some have been here for more than a decade.

Everyone has a story to share... no matter how long you've lived here. You are cordially invited to write up your story (200 words or so), and submit it. Include a photo and please tell us about your history, your hobbies, your family, or your passions.

As time and space permit, your Mini-Bio will be published in a future edition of the *Mutual 16 Matters* newsletter.

SECURITY AND TRANSPORTATION

The automated gate access system, approved by the Leisure World Board of Directors, was expected to be operational by late this year — but there have been a few snags. The company we were dealing with has withdrawn, so now we have a new company that submitted their proposal in September.

The company is Gate Logic Security in Manassas, Virginia. They are proposing an oval decal placed in the inside of the windshield. The decal will have an individual number to identify the car owner (much the same as what we have now) but it will also have a chip to activate the Gate Access system.

The good news: The question concerning the hours of operation for the Norbeck Gate is still up in the air. They want to wait until the system is operational to decide the hours. Some residents have asked if it might be considered to have the gate operational 24/7 since there will be no gate guard.

Another item you might find interesting. Someone suggested that the position of gate guard be filled by Leisure World residents. It's true that LW has trouble filling that position. It tends to attract young people who need a job right away but not necessarily looking for a career. It pays minimum wage. It's not necessarily a crazy idea, and is worth thinking about.

Here's another little tidbit for you to think about. It was another Mutual which made the initial inquiry which resulted in a presentation from an officer of the Montgomery County Police Department. It's called "Neighborhood Watch" and is mighty effective in fighting crime. It's basically neighbors watching for and reporting suspicious activities. "If You See Something, Say Something."

Our Mutual pretty much looks out for itself — at least that is my observation for the past two years. We may not know everybody in the Mutual, but we know our immediate neighbors. Don't hesitate to call the Main Gate (301-598-1044) if you think there is something suspicious going on. Report what you see and let the Special Police Officers decide.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me (240-880-2181).

Harry Geehreg
Mutual 16 Representative
Security and Transportation Advisory Committee

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

So far, It has been a relatively warm fall and winter.

Before we get into the heart of winter please check that you have winterized your home.

- Disconnect all outside hoses from the faucet. This reduces the likelihood your outdoor faucet will freeze.
- Drain your hose and put it away. This keeps your hose from freezing and splitting.
- Close all the air conditioner vents in the ceiling. You may need a ladder or you may be able to close them using a broom handle. This will reduce drafts.
- Remove the air conditioner return filter. Clean it. Wrap it with aluminum foil and put it back. This will reduce drafts. Be sure to reverse this process before you run the air conditioner in the spring.

These actions will take under 30 minutes and will keep your house safe from flooding and will keep it warmer.

If you have any questions, call **Doug Allston** at 301-598-2557

REMINDER: NO YARD WASTE PICKUP

Normally, yard waste is picked up on Mondays and Thursdays from March through November. Until regular pickup resumes in March, please put any yard waste out with your regular trash on Tuesday or Friday.

THREE WISE MEN... HANDYMEN



Below is the contact information for three Handymen. These are people who do small jobs around your house for pay. They will paint a room, fix a light fixture, fix the leaking faucet, assemble the bookcase, fix a leaky door, etc. They will not remodel your bathroom or rewire your house. Basically, the things a handy husband or wife would do. All three came recommended. If you use one please give me feedback on the quality of their work and price (**Doug Allston** 301-598-2557).

You may call or text them at the phone numbers listed.

Scott Davis 240-463-6134

John Kent 301-385-8866

Alex Santos 202-945-3178

SCENES FROM MUTUAL 16

Photo credits:
Paula Seebode
Secretary

Doris O'Donnell
and **Louise Bryan**
are still enjoying
dinner in the garage.
Bandit Seebode, too.
It's worth it for the
good company. ▶



Labor donated by
Judite Fernandes,
Kay Looney, and
Paula Seebode ◀

Planting daisies
donated by **John Fajnor**
and winterizing the park
using bags donated by
Sandy Greer. ▶



Paula Seebode and **Sandy Greer**
planting Black-eyed Susans
donated by Sandy's friend,
Joyce DeVilbis. Next year,
the park will be even more beautiful!
◀



Mutual 16's **Michael Higgs,**
of Solomons Court, helping
to decorate the park. ▶

