

VAIL'S VOICE

Newsletter of the Vail's Grove Community
located on Peach Lake

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October 2020

Greetings from the Chair

I would like to introduce myself to the residents of Vail's Grove, my name is Julie Salerno and I have been given the privilege to be the 2020-2021 Chair of the Board of Directors. I do not take this position lightly, but I do take it with a heavy heart, as I am replacing a board member and a Chairman who was not only an excellent holder of the position, but a dear friend.

As you all know Frank Cassidy passed away suddenly at the end of August. Mary Rubini, the Vice Chair eloquently put into words what Frank meant to this Board and to this community. While Frank can never be replaced, I promise you that I will do my best to fulfill many of the ideas and ideals that he had for Vail's Grove. Frank and I spoke often and especially this past summer about the direction that we had hoped the community would go in the future. There was a childlike excitement in his eyes and voice as we talked about what could be here in the Grove. So many improvements and betterments for all of us was the vision that Frank had, and he believed in the Board and its members to be able to work towards those visions.

As your new Chair, I can tell you that I will put my heart and soul into this position. I can also tell you that the Board of Directors works tirelessly at meetings and beyond to serve you, the residents of Vail's Grove, our neighbors and our friends to make this community that we live in the best that it can be.

Each member of this Board gives of their time freely and voluntarily and although there are times when we disagree, the one thing that we can agree upon is that whatever we decide, it is in the best interest of Vail's Grove and the people that live here.

I thank you for this opportunity, my hope is that I can be a good Chair like my friend Frank and serve this community with the class, dignity and humor that he brought to our meetings, our beach, and our Grove.

Remembering Frank Cassidy, Chairperson of Vail's Grove Coop

From Vice-Chair Mary Rubini (Annual Meeting)

Before I request a moment of silence for the shareholders that we have lost this year, I would be remiss if I did not ask for a moment of silence for one particular shareholder, our former chairperson of the board, Mr. Frank Cassidy. In fact, I couldn't ask for a moment of silence to honor and remember Frank Cassidy because just one moment of silence just wouldn't be enough.....even if we dedicated all of the moments of this board meeting to remember him, that would not be enough.....the fact is, we don't have enough moments to fully honor and remember him.

Frank Cassidy has served on this board for the many years. He has served as Chairman for the past four years. Anyone that knows me knows that Chairperson is a title that I never wanted to hold, and I certainly never wanted to hold the title under these tragic circumstances. I agreed to serve as vice chair under Frank because I knew that with him at the helm, I would not be called upon often. In fact, in the course of the four years that I served as vice chair, I was only asked to cover one board meeting for him. So strong was his dedication to this board and to this

serving on the board for several years, Frank and his wife Meghan ran the recreation committee, tirelessly hosting many parties and parades; and if that weren't enough, he and Meghan took over the beach committee and transformed it into the oasis that it is today. Frank dedicated his life to his family and to this community, and he did it with a smile on his face and joy in his heart, and always with resounding laughter.

Frank conducted our meetings with professionalism and respect. He always took time to listen to his fellow board members and let everyone have a voice, while at the same time, always being sure to keep us on track. We were a well-oiled machine under his leadership. I will miss seeing him at our board meetings, at the beach, at the bus stop, and out walking his dog Coaster up and down the grove. He was a fixture and a pillar of our community, and he will never be forgotten.



From Cindy

If someone is staying/living in your home for more than 30 days, they must be vetted. Please contact the office for info.

Please drive slower – it really is dangerous to be driving so fast in a small, private community with narrow roads. Remind your guests as well. Ramp 2 is not to be used in the morning when the children are there for the school bus.

Once again, we all love our dogs, but please do not leave their poop in other garbage cans – take it home and put in yours – thank you!

The office is very busy with re-fis, closings, etc. All rental apps, membership apps, real estate apps, etc., must be in this office 21 days prior to a Board meeting. If not, the application will be moved to the next month.

Quarterly bills are enclosed. Payment due in office – not mailed, but IN office by October 31st.

We have many new neighbors – please welcome: □

Karen and John Breidenbach at 27 VLSD

- Anthony Valente at 6 White Oak Lane
- Jaime and Kevin Laurino at 22 Locust Road
- Andrew Troup and Everett Taylor at 84 Vails Lake Shore Drive

If you see folks that you do not know, introduce yourselves – it makes everyone feel welcome.

When there is an issue that you have with your neighbor, the best way to deal with it is to between the two of you. Things always work out better that way.

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, September 13. The Board members elected at the meeting are: □

Hugh Andrews

- Mary Rubini
- Jack Waltzer – all for three year terms

The following is the Executive Committee: □

Juliann Salerno – Chairperson

- Mary Rubini- Vice-Chairperson
- Hugh Andrews – Vice President
- Thomas Duffy – Secretary
- Ellen Mytych – Treasurer

Patrick McGuinness, Joan Myers, Jack Walter, Ron Sarno, Jason LaRocca, David Janecek are the remainder of the Board. The entire list of Committee Chairs will be finalized shortly. Thank you to all who serve. Board meetings are on third Thursday of the month.

In closing, not long after I started working here, I saw a woman walking with a small baby in a stroller. I knocked on the window and told her to come in. That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship between my family and the Cassidy's. Three more wonderful girls came along. They were blessed with two terrific parents who taught them right from wrong and how to be polite, personable and respectful. A life filled with fun experiences. Meghan and Frank became wonderful mentors to my children--tutoring for SATS, help with college essays and applications, sharing in wonderful and sad occasions, from graduations to christenings and communions, funerals, holidays, etc. And when my daughter decided to become a teacher, the mentorship continued--to the day Frank suggested a principal for Jess to contact about a possible teaching position. I could go on and on about the feelings we have for the Cassidy's. Meghan and the girls were blessed to have Frank Cassidy in their lives, as were we. I miss our bantering, as he was first the Secretary, Vice President and then Chairman of the Board, and our laughing and his earthly presence. Frankie, rest in peace--we all miss you and you will always be with us in our hearts.

2020 Chairperson's Service Award

This year at the Vail's Grove Annual Meeting, Helen Vail received the Chairperson's Service Award. Vail's Grove Coop Chairman, Frank Cassidy, had decided months before he passed away unexpectedly to award Helen. It's a tribute to his memory, and no surprise that his selection was honored. While most of us may know Helen for her work as chair (and active participant) of the Lend a Hand Committee, even more people enjoyed her tireless commitment to keeping spirits up at the start of the pandemic, when for months she kayaked along the shore or drove through the Grove playing upbeat tunes. Or you may be the proud owner of one of the hundreds of Vail's Grove Strong caps that she sold to raise money to thank local medical and essential workers. Helen also cheered on committee members who for the better part of the summer on a weekly basis, cut and delivered buckets of flowers from the Grove to Putnam Rehab and Nursing, brightening spaces for staff and residents. In a recent update to Lend a Hand Committee members, Helen wrote, 'At the annual meeting last Sunday, I was so very pleased and surprised to be the recipient of the "Volunteer of the



Year Award." I gratefully accepted for ALL OF US.' Thank you, Helen, for your *Helen Vail receiving her humble leadership and inspiring all of us to do GOOD!!! much-deserved service award*



Leaf Me Alone

Why You Should Keep Your Leaves In Your Yard

From Jack Waltzer

As the leaves continue to fall, many of us will use our time or money to rid our laws of leaves. Keeping our leaves nearby is a simpler, more environmentally-friendly solution, as leaves contain nutrients that are good for the soil.

Here are some ways to make the most of your leaves:

- **Mulch your leaves in place.** Shred your leaves with a lawn mower and leave them on your lawn. It's faster and

- **Add shredded leaves to your garden and landscape.** Shredded leaves can be used as a mulch to help prevent weeds and keep moisture in the soil. The leaves will also slowly release nutrients into the soil.
- **Save your leaves for composting.** Leaves are a fresh source of “browns”, materials rich in carbon, that are needed to balance the “greens”, such as food scraps and grass clippings, in your home compost pile. One of the biggest challenges to composting food scraps at home is the release of water into your compost pile as the food breaks down. One of the best ways to fix this is to add leaves every time you add food scraps (*Compost tip*” shredded leaves absorb water better than whole leaves). Compost provides nutrients, improves soil structure, absorbs and holds in moisture, and adds beneficial microorganisms.
- **Insulate your compost bin for the winter.** Place leaves around and on top of your compost bin. This will insulate your bin and allow the material to continue to break down. In the spring, you will have fresh compost without waiting for your pile to thaw out, and the leaves can be added to your spring compost pile.



New Tree Committee

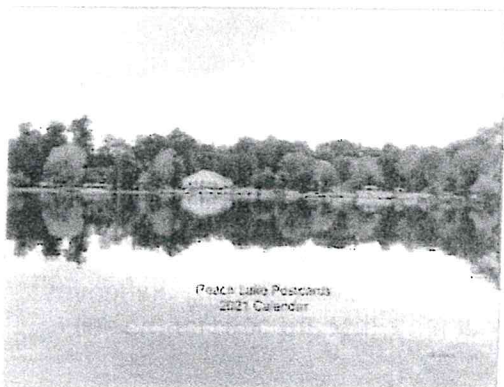
From Jason LaRocca

Hi to all! This month, the Board has added a new subcommittee to Buildings and Grounds to review trees throughout Vail's Grove. The Tree Committee will conduct periodic visual surveys throughout the Grove to try to identify potentially hazardous trees on Common Property as well as stockholder properties.

The Coop will hire a certified arborist to survey any trees on Common Property that are seen to be problematic, and determine which trees need to be pruned or removed. The Coop will also inform stockholders of potentially hazardous trees on their leased properties.

It would be impossible for the tree committee to identify all trees that could pose a hazard, so if you see anything that you feel needs to be brought to our attention, please email the Tree Committee chair Jason LaRocca at jasonlarocca@gmail.com.

A Limited Number OF 2021 Calendars Left!



Peach Lake Postcards 2021 Calendars are now available in the Vail's Grove Office ONLY.

Cost is \$20 - cash or check made out to "Vail's Grove." Thank you to everyone who purchased a calendar so far! All proceeds (47% of price) after cost of printing is going to the Cassidy Children.

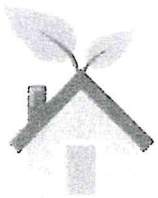
Vail's Grove Lend A Hand Committee



To date, we have sold 254 caps. We have 46 left. Caps are \$12 each. If anyone is interested in purchasing caps, contact Helen Vail (Telephone: 845-205-8004, email helen.vail@vailsgrove.com). From the sale of the caps, we were able to make donations to thank essential workers at both hospitals in our area (Putnam Hospital Center and Northern Westchester Hospital) as well as the North Salem Police Department and the North Salem Ambulance Corp.

Buildings and Grounds

By Hugh Andrews



Hello all and hello autumn. As we close this very unusual and somewhat isolated summer, Vail's Grove is ready to take in the beautiful foliage of fall. As we walk the streets and admire the colors and the lake, let us be mindful to pick up after our pets.



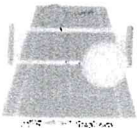
Also a time to remember the speed limit throughout the Grove is 10 mph. We have installed new signs around the Grove to remind us all of the 10 mph speed. It is getting darker earlier in the evenings and more difficult to see the early evening walkers--the slower the better.



It was agreed by the Board that a tree committee should be formed to assist in accessing shareholder and common property trees that are dangerous and/or dead. Please be mindful of this in case you are contacted regarding a tree on your property deemed unsafe. If you are contacted and need to hire a tree contractor, please make sure they are licensed and that they remove all debris from your property and not left on curbside of property.

When cleaning your own properties, please be mindful that all cuttings must be placed curbside on your property. Do not bring your debris to common areas, please.

Reminder that if you need leaf bags, you can go to the main garage where Jay has recycled bags available.



Lastly, Buildings and Grounds are looking into cost effective ways to make repairs and/or improvements to the tennis courts.

If you have suggestions or concerns, please contact myself or the office....Concerns in writing are always better.

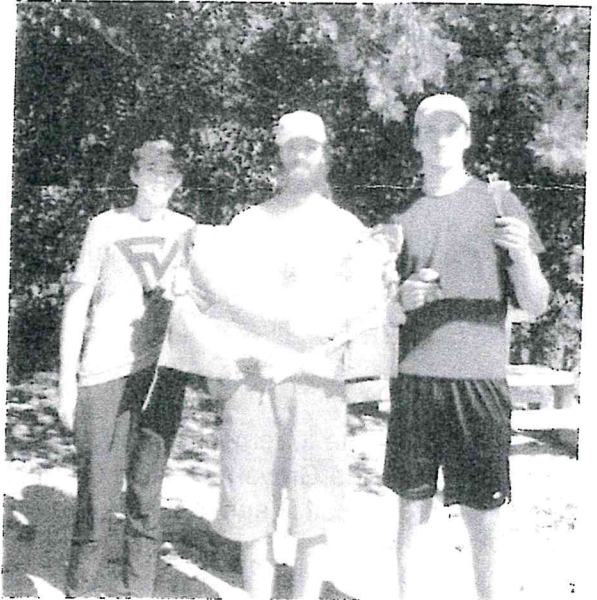
From Cathy Morris

Six entries braved the cool late summer waters on Saturday, September 19, marking Vail's Grove's first annual cardboard regatta. Entrants constructed their vessels earlier in the day and met on the beach at 3:00 pm. Linda VanScoy served as judge awarding the 2020 trophy to team Poopy Heads (John Collins, Matteo Rubini, Simon Rubini) for crossing the swimming area first and staying afloat. An honorary mention went to team Megalodon (Sarah Cassidy, Stella Di Domenico) for the prettiest boat and also first boat to sink (85 seconds). Spectators sprinkled the beach, and Julie Collins served up cupcakes to the crowd.

*Winning team Poopy Heads
Simon Rubini, John Collins,
Matteo Rubini,*

2020 Boats (Team Members)

- Big Chungus (David Palaia)
- Blue Bananas (Maeve Cassidy, Levi Di Domenico)
- Lightning Bolts (Georgia Rubini, Amelia Vail, Johanna Vail)
- Megalodon (Stella Di Domenico, Sarah Cassidy)
- Poopy Heads (John Collins, Matteo Rubini, Simon



Rubini)

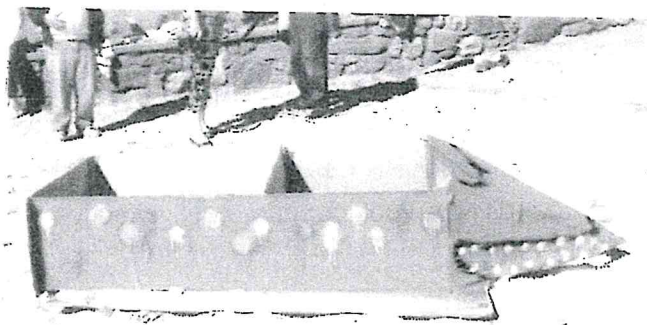


The start of the race

Titanic (Abby Cassidy, Darla Di Domenico)

Vail's Grove First Annual Cardboard Regatta

Cardboard and Duct Tape Creations Seize the Day



Boat Megalodon (Stella Di Domenico, Sarah Cassidy) – Honorary Mention



Julie Collins serving up cupcakes to participants

2020 Trophy



Get Well Wishes are sent out to Dave Janecek, Mary Lou Martelli and Jack Waltzer...Happy Healing.



to Robert & Caitlin Lee on the birth of their new daughter Joanna and to grandparents John & Jeannie Lee.

Wearing her mom's wedding dress, and with her first cousin Mary Rubini officiating, Grace Myers and Ross Hill married with only immediate family as witnesses in respect to the COVID pandemic. Their simple ceremony took place on September 12, 2020 framed by the beautiful gardens at The Farmer and The Fish restaurant. We wish them lots of love and congratulations!



And on a sad note, condolences are sent to Judy Smith on the passing of her husband Brooker, to Bernard & Rosie Ross on the passing of his mother, and to Meghan Cassidy and daughters on the passing of her husband and their dad Frank, Chairman of our Board.



Boat Committee and Water Operator

(Wearing 2 Hats)
From Patrick McGuinness

Just a reminder to those affected, as our boat, Jet Ski, docks, etc. removal begins, for those of you who use the boat ramp or north end gates, please be sure to lock gates and return keys as soon as you are finished. We ask that everyone tries to complete their tasks within the same day so as not to keep keys overnight which inconveniences all. Thanks very much in advance for your cooperation.

Also, in regards to our water system, one of my responsibilities as a Water Operator is to check our chlorine levels for safety at the pump house and throughout the grove. This is normally done at random by taking samples of water from a hose connection outside our homes. I may ask some of you if it is okay that I do this from time to time, and I will only do it with your prior permission. As I said, it is merely letting the water run for a minute or two, taking the sample. This is not a requirement by any means; and if you feel uncomfortable with it, no harm no foul. Just to reiterate, this is a random sampling of water that needs to be taken now and again to insure our system is up to snuff! Thank you for your assistance with this as well. Please be safe!!

