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April 2024



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*from left seated: Brenda Park, Joe Ranuro, Amy DeBruin.  
 from left standing: Mary Jo Zajeski, JoEllen Wuerzburger,  
 Anne Heller, Paula Neumeier.*

**GONDOLIER STAFF:**

**Submissions** ..... Cassie Dionne603-361-4313 ..... cassiedionne@yahoo.com  
**Anniversaries/Birthdays** .... Gina Miller  
**Sunshine Reporter** ..... Cassie Dionne  
**Activities**..... MaryJo Zajeski  
**Getting To Know You**..... Amy Newman  
**Recipes**..... Cheryl Smith

**Couriers**

Pat Olsen McGee      Debby Steele,  
 Sheila Bacon          Sally Ruebesam  
 Gina Miller            Pat Morales  
 Paul Miller            Dorrene Moser



**Weekly Activities**

See monthly calendars, our website VPEonline.com and watch the bulletin board and our facebook page for changes. (Facebook page is Neighbors Helping Neighbors).

**NOTARY PUBLIC:**

Denise Achin is offering FL notary services to anyone in the park. These are free of charge to park residents. Contact her at 321-369-8635..

**Please note** – call Community Media – 941-375-3699 for **ALL ADS**, or e-mail [darin@communitymedia.com](mailto:darin@communitymedia.com)

**MEETINGS**

Board Meeting: April 17, 2024 9:30 AM  
 Activities Meeting: April 10, 2024 6PM

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

Deadline for May/June 2024 combined Gondolier articles is April 16, 2024. Please submit as a word document attached to email to: [cassiedionne@yahoo.com](mailto:cassiedionne@yahoo.com) (no spaces in email address)



## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

by Amy Newman



Barbara Webb had been renting the home of her college friend, Phyllis Correia, here in VPE for a short time this year when the opportunity arose to make VPE her winter home in the purchase of 2249 Gondola, previously owned by the Reymonds.

Barbara is a life-long New Hampshireite, born and raised as an only child in the city of Nashua. After 56 years of marriage she lost her husband Gordon last year. They met on the beach at Wallis Sands State Park in Rye, New Hampshire, on Labor Day in 1965. He was a lifeguard and Barbara jokes that he saved her life. She has two children; a daughter and son, and five grandchildren. The couple spent four years snowbirding in Dunedin, Florida, after her husband retired from teaching and coaching men's lacrosse in New Hampshire.

Barbara was a stay-at-home mom for ten years and then began her teaching career in elementary education, pursued a master's degree, and later was a guidance counselor. After a career in education, Barbara worked for a real estate attorney doing title work.

Barbara performed for more than thirty years in community theater and professional summer productions in New Hampshire. Her favorite play she acted in for many seasons was Steel Magnolias. She enjoyed playing cribbage and Scrabble with her husband and has read every Anne Tyler novel, her favorite writer.

While Barbara is making her new home her own with four-legged companion Teddy (middle name Bear), she will also spend the off season in Plymouth, New Hampshire with her daughter and son-in-law. We extend a VPE welcome to Barbara and Teddy. She asks that you introduce yourself when they are out walking but don't be offended if Theodore, as she calls him when he's in trouble, barks at you. He's a Maltese and they have a lot to say!

## **KENTUCKY DERBY DAY RACES**

**Saturday, May 4 Post Time 5pm**



Come watch the horses run at Venetian Downs and watch the Kentucky Derby on the big screen. Pick your favorite horses, place your bets, win prizes! Get in the mood by wearing the fanciest Kentucky Derby hat for a prize. There will be a 50/50 and a 50/50 wishing well where you'll guess the number of poker chips and win half the pot. This could be your lucky day! There will be lots of random prizes! Come join



your friends at the clubhouse for a fun time, food, prizes and laughter. Pizza and ice cream will be provided as well as lemonade and tea. Byodinks if you want something else. Anyone for a mint julep?



*Don't forget your hats!*

## **WANTED: EDITOR FOR THE GONDOLIER.**

After nearly 3 years, I am stepping down as editor. It has been my pleasure acting in this role. I have met so many of you. This was an opportunity to be creative and to stretch my knowledge as I learned how to put together drafts to be published. I know there are others of you who can fill this role. It isn't difficult; the publisher finds the ads, collates and prints and delivers the finished newsletter to us. They also send the online issue to our webmaster. We have faithful contributors who send in their articles to me every month. We are always looking for more content. Do you have a story to tell or tips to share?

I will be continuing until October 2024 with the November issue as my final one. Please contact me if you have an interest in continuing the newsletter. It takes approx 10-15 hours per month to collect the articles and form them and photos into a draft for the publisher, who then sends a proof for review before printing. It's all done online.

**CALL ME 603-361-4313**

*submitted by Cassie Dionne*





## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

by Cheryl Smith

What can I say about Mom's bbq ribs? Only that they are a family favorite of ours, so much so that one sister thought the recipe should be kept in the family! They are both tangy and sweet and a little bit different from traditional bbq ribs.

### Oven-Baked BBQ Ribs

4# country-style pork ribs

1 T. butter

1 clove garlic, minced

½ C. catsup

1/3 C. chili sauce

2 T. brown sugar

2 T. onions, chopped

1 T. Worcestershire sauce

1 t. celery seed

¼ t. salt

1 T. yellow mustard

Dash hot sauce

1 lemon, sliced thinly



Gently boil the ribs in tiny bit of salt until tender. Set aside. Melt butter. Add garlic and onions and sauté until just tender. Add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Put ribs into a shallow baking dish and pour sauce over them, arranging the lemon slices on top.

Bake in a preheated oven to 350 degrees. Baste a couple times.

I like the ribs to almost fall apart so I bake 25-30 minutes.



## A CHUCKLE FOR YOU FROM TIM'S SEITZ'S BIBLE

June was scheduled to have her appendix removed and prayed that everything would turn out well, as she was very anxious about it.

"Don't worry," God told her, "I've got this. You still have 40 years left of your life here on earth."

After recovering, she thought to herself,

"Wow! 40 years! I think I'll have a few more surgeries, and decided on a face-lift, tummy tuck, other lifts here and there, and a nose job.

Upon leaving the hospital after her final surgery, she stepped out in front of a bus and was fatally wounded. As she stood before God, she exclaimed, "You told me I still had 40 years!"

"But June," He said, "I didn't recognize you!!"

My brother found this joke, handwritten in Tim's Bible, after I returned from his service in Ohio. We laughed so hard, that I...well, I'm not going to say what happened...Pam Seitz

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## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Glenn Newman
- 4 Phyllis Buechner  
Cheryl Burton
- 6 Judy Wakeman
- 11 Judy Jennett
- 12 Bill Hayes
- 14 Cassie Dionne  
Cal Fladzinski  
Joan Lemke
- 16 Bonnie Kannapinn
- 21 Cheryl Ludwig
- 25 Pat Morales
- 29 Mike Anderson  
John Wuerzburger



## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike and Christine Mallos
- 13 Greg and Bonnie Ryan April 13, 1996
- 25 Jay and Bonni Andrews April 25, 1965

### Pretzel Salad

*(From Italian Dinner at Clubhouse)  
submitted by Pam Seitz*

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 cups pretzels pieces - I roll them in a plastic baggie, with a bakers rolling pin, then measure.
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 20 ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
- 12 ounces Cool Whip

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees
- Combine the pretzels, melted butter and the sugar and pour onto a foil-lined baking sheet. Bake about 7-10 minutes, or until bubbly and sugar mixture has started to turn a caramel color
- Remove from oven and cool completely.
- Cream the cream cheese, then add drained pineapple and cream together. Fold in the Cool Whip and refrigerate.
- About 30 minutes before serving; crumble the cooled pretzel pieces into the cream cheese mixture and stir in.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE..

**Recommendations prior to leaving to make sure that your home will be in good shape when you return:**

1. Empty your refrigerator, unplug it and prop open the door.
2. Remove food from the pantry, or ensure it's in mice/insect-proof storage containers.
3. Ask the Office to forward mail to your home address. If you wish to have the monthly newsletter mailed to you, contact Deb Cinco. email:debcinco@gmail.com
4. Empty all the trash bins.
5. Unplug power loads such as TVs, kitchen appliances, power strips and internet routers .
6. Turn off the main water supply.
7. Turn off the water heater.
8. Disconnect the hoses to your washer and dryer, and unplug them.
9. Set the thermostat to 80 degrees for AC.
10. Turn off all the lights, close the shades/drapes.
11. Lock all the doors and windows (leave a key with the office or caretaker for emergencies).
12. Bring everything inside: patio furniture, flags, chair cushions, grills (disconnect the propane).
13. Flush the toilet several times just before you leave.
14. Pour half a cup of chlorine bleach into the toilet bowl to prevent stain-causing bacteria.
15. Cover toilets with plastic wrap, and all sink drains with sealed plastic bags to prevent the water from evaporating in the drains which would allow sewer odors and bugs to crawl down roof vents into your house.

**Have a safe summer, and remember to fill out a Seasonal Absence Form when you leave (the form is available online: [vpeonline.com](http://vpeonline.com)).**

**REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT WITH THE OFFICE WHEN YOU LEAVE FOR THE SEASON!**

FYI! Any contact with Scammers should be reported to Seniors vs. Crime, a FL State Agency, at 800-203-3099.



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# Are you concerned about falling?

Instructors: Kelly Ward



A MATTER OF  
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- make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- exercise to increase strength and balance

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- anyone concerned about falls
- anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
- anyone who has fallen in the past
- anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

To register contact Kelly Ward at

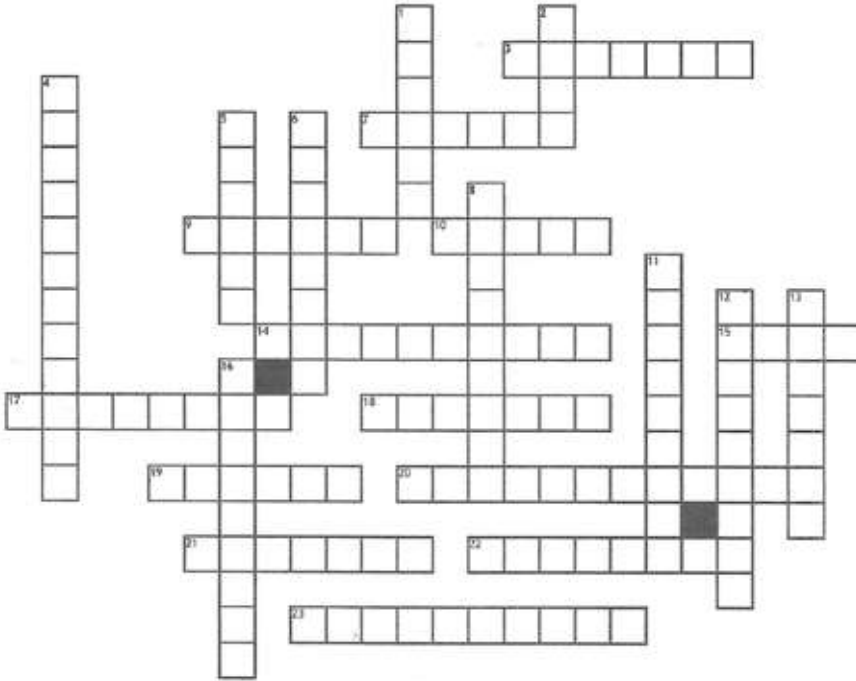
[kelly.ward@flhealth.gov](mailto:kelly.ward@flhealth.gov)

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## OUR FLORIDA HOME

*This month's crossword created and submitted by Lee Kohlmeier.*



**Down**

- 1. Treats at coffees
- 2. Our Office man
- 4. Push the disc game
- 5. White sand beach
- 6. Trash day
- 8. Newsletter
- 11. Closest drugstore
- 12. Website
- 13. Ice Cream place
- 16. In the pond

**Across**

- 3. Two Saturdays each month
- 7. Cornhole day
- 9. Bird's nest
- 10. Irv's expertise
- 14. Flea market chair
- 15. Bike Man
- 17. Longest hair in the park
- 18. 41's Street name
- 19. Pat's Clubhuse Game
- 20. Common transportation
- 21. Between Ca D' Oro and Piazza
- 22. Tall poker dealer
- 23. Major Fundraiser



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**SUNSHINE NEWS**

by Cassie Dionne



Chuck Stumpf passed away on 2/19/24 peacefully surrounded by his family. He enjoyed spending his winters in Sarasota, having a love for the water. He and Naomi were often seen at park events and at cards. Condolences to his wife Naomi and family. Cards may be sent to:

Naomi Stumpf 3979 Malbec Dr. Gahanna, OH 43230. Cell 614-633-5080. Naomi's daughter

Dixie Roberts also winters here at VPE; 3215 Summer Glen Dr. Grove City, OH 43123.

Chuck's sister Della Merritt spent many winters here; 1166 Redfield Dr. Columbus, OH 43229.

Della has been in the hospital recently, I'm sure she would love hearing from her old friends and neighbors.

We're glad to see Paul Miller up and about after a few falls this winter.

Debby Steele had a fall in March which resulted in broken bones. Get well wishes may be sent to 2060 Ca D Oro Dr. 34238. ph: 802-258-1788.

Ellen Matthews returned home after a few weeks in Rehab. Cards may be sent to her home address 2084 Ca D Oro Dr 34238.

Joan Barone is recovering from a recent illness. Cards may be sent to her home at 2126 Ca D Oro Dr. 34238.

Bill Garrett is currently in Assisted Living at The Springs at Lake Pointe Woods. 3280 Lake Pointe Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34231. Visits and cards are welcome.

Barb DeGryse passed away 12/3/2023 at the age of 89. She and husband, Jim who preceeded her in death, spent many winters here with us. Cards may be sent to her children; Debra Kelly-Schlak, Christine DeGryse and Daniel DeGryse and family. Debra's address is 1211 Rockway

Glen Court Elgin, IL 60124.

**THE "PROJECT LADY"**

**is on the move again and needs your help, as usual.**

Project #1 - need yarn for crocheting scarfs and hats of various sizes for the homeless for the winter season, these will be distributed to Resurrection House.

# 2-Any excess fabric you sewing ladies don't need, any colors or prints. Pieces need to be at least 18-20 inches wide and at 25-30 inches long, these are for "bibs" made for nursing home residents.

# 3-Any "fleece" fabric..pieces of any color or print or size. These will be made for hats of various sizes, from baby's to adults, also for the homeless, or given to any church that may want to distribute them.

Hope you can help, just leave any "bags full" on my door step if I'm not home @ 2213 Piazza Dr.)

Thank you. (all this keeps me busy and out of trouble). Ruth Beck

**BAD DAD JOKES**

Q. Why do people like to eat ice cream in May?

A. Because people like to eat ice cream

Q. How excited was the gardener about spring?

A. He was so excited he wet his plants.

Q. Why does Batman like May?

A. Because that's when he first saw robin.

Knock Knock who's there?

Justin. Justin who?

Justin time to say

Happy Mother's Day!



Happy Father's Day too!

**THANK YOU****From Naomi Stumpf**

To my VPE Family. Words cannot begin to say how grateful I am to all of you. The support, calls, texts, and cards for the passing of Chuck was wonderful. I thank you and my family thanks you. Once things settle down and things are taken care of, I am hoping to be down there soon. Love to all of you!!!

**From Len Pagano**

*I never made it as the popular boy in the high school basketball team or the teacher of the year or even as head teacher in my working years, but now I've learned by getting along with VPE friends, I can get them to send me Birthday Cards and I'm posting this THANK YOU to all who sent me a card. I feel like a celebrity in the park and at Town Square too. Thank you again for the cards!*

*thank you!*

**VPE Golfers 2024 wind up another great season.**



**VPE Dance Class Graduation Party**



**John Sanson, Chuck Stumpf, Bill Merritt. Past March fun at VPE Downs Never forget, We miss them.**

*Gone but not forgotten*



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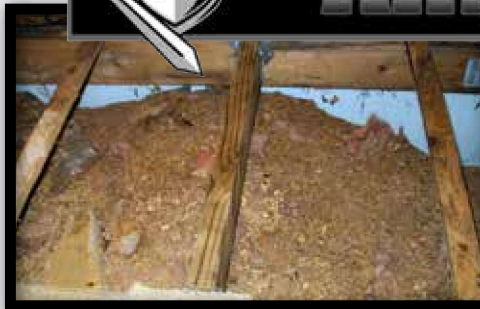
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# THE 2024 ST PATRICK'S DAY HORSE RACES:

**\$240 was earned to benefit future park activities.**

Contenders from left: Broomstick: Ken Boughton, Horse With No Name: John Wuerzburger, Pissy Sissy: Sis Gavin, Paddy O' Hair: Cathy Censki, St Fish: Jeff Fisher, Passing Wind: Dennis Callan.

Ringleader: Gina Miller,  
Payouts: Mike Anderson.  
Betting Booth: Flip DeBruin, Paul Miller, Jim Tilton



# April Word Search



about  
ample  
bloat

caged  
catch  
chrome  
commit  
crazy  
crisis

desire  
detectors

exceed

fell  
filthy

hurtle  
hypnosis

light  
lunch

mattress  
meet  
merge

national

openly

people  
piece  
pipe  
plane  
primp

rear  
remove  
repair

shell  
smell  
steep  
street

touch  
trust

voice  
worry





# 2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS



seated from left: Irv Rubin, Terry Deer, Louise Novak, Glenn Newman  
standing from left: Jeff Edelmann, Paul Censki, Mike Anderson, Dennis Callan, John Wuerzburger



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# APRIL 2024

MARCH  
S M T W T F S  
1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31

Max  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM	3 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM	4 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	5 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	6 Cornhole 2:00 PM
7 Ice Cream at the Pool Event 1PM - 3PM	8 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	9 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM	10 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Activities Meeting 6PM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM	11 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	12 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	13 Cornhole 2:00 PM Coffee 9:30 AM
14	15 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	16 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM	17 Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 AM Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM	18 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	19 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	20 Cornhole 2:00 PM
21	22 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	23 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM	24 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominos 6:30 PM	25 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Texas Hold'Em 5:00 PM	26 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	27 Coffee 9:30 AM Cornhole 2:00 PM
28	29 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'Em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	30 Exercise Sis's - 2077 Ca'd'oro 9:30 AM Happy Hour @ pool 4:00 PM Bingo 7:00 PM				

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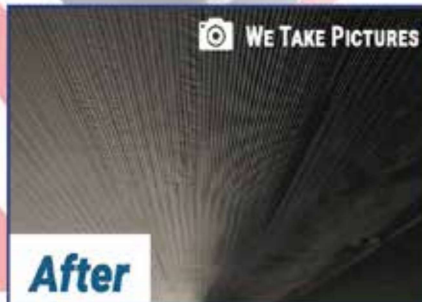
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