

THE GRAPEVINE



Published by and for Mutual 14 of Leisure World

Issued Monthly – No. 382 , Nov/Dec, 2009

Mark Your



Calendar

**Next Board Of Directors'
Meeting Thursday, Dec. 17,
2009**



JOIN US!!!

in the Administration Building at 1:30 p.m. All unit owners and residents are encouraged to attend all Board meetings.

- ▶ Property Maintenance Committee, Thursday Dec. 3, @ 1:30 P, Administration Building
- ▶ Holiday Party, Tuesday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m. in Clubhouse II.
- ▶ Advisory Committee, Wednesday, December 16, at 10:00 a.m. in Clubhouse I

The President's Corner

As you know from the last *Grapevine*, Susan and I were away for most of October. We toured China and had a superb time. After I got home I had several obligations associated with my continuing professional life (an invited talk at Yale, and a talk at the Paleontological Society of Washington, where I am the current president). But now I am back paying attention to the business of Mutual 14 again.

The economic hard times have made sales slow throughout Leisure World. Things picked up some this summer and fall and we hope that continues into next year, although economic problems still continue. One consequence is that we now earn on our Mutual investments (which are all in FDIC insured CD's, so at least we have no worries about losing the principal) only about half as much in interest as we received in normal times. This means we need all of our owners to act as good citizens of our condominium community by helping to keep expenses down by being careful with use of utilities (especially electricity).

We must remember that we are members of a "common ownership community", a condominium, not a commercial rental system or a set of independent private homes. When items of business that must be voted on by the unit owners come up it is your *responsibility* to vote when one is called for by the Board of Directors. We have such a vote pending on the request to remove the Right of First Refusal from our Bylaws. The presence of this clause in our Bylaws can make it difficult to obtain a mortgage in some instances, which could be a problem for potential buyers if any of us need to sell our units. The Mutual has never used the option — and we don't have the money to do so (it would take about a \$1500 assessment per unit to raise the money to act on that "right" and so it is obvious we never would). Hence it seems clear our individual and collective best interest is to pass this amendment to our Bylaws. However, a two-thirds vote of the unit owners is needed to amend the Bylaws and we have not yet heard from 40.4% of you. I sincerely hope that those of you who will be receiving a second request to vote on this issue will respond. Otherwise we cannot do business and that hurts you as well as your fellow owners.

We have had good progress on many fronts, however. The painting was completed on Buildings 11 and 13 this fall and it was well done. We have identified the funds to continue that work at the rate of two buildings a year to protect all our buildings as well as improve their appearance.

At this Thanksgiving season we can be truly thankful for the opportunity to live in such a pleasant community in such a great country.

Hope to see you at our Holiday Party on December 15. Sharon Moores and the Social Committee do a great job.

-- Richard Bambach






Personals...

12/26 – Margaret Cross – 13-3F



Social Committee

**HOLIDAY PARTY/CASINO NIGHT
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009
6:00 P.M.
CLUBHOUSE II**

We are doing something different this year. We will have heavy hor d’oeuvres all night plus dessert. Just remember this is not a night to eat and leave. We will have casino night going on and you will have chances to win prizes if your gambling skills are good or you are just plain lucky. If you would like to help, please call Sharon Moores – 301-438-0048. The cost will be \$10.00. Remember that you may bring alcohol with you that evening if you like, we will have coffee and something cold.

Landscape Committee

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

We are not meeting again until February 8, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in Clubhouse I. We really need some help. Buildings #11, #15 and #17 have no representative. You do not need to have knowledge of plants, just know if something looks good or bad in your atrium and around the Mutual. If you would be interested please call Sharon Moores – 301-438-0048. The only way to get things right is to have extra sets of eyes looking out for your building.



Winter begins
December 21st

Reminders & Vital Info



• **Energy Conservation**

You can conserve energy while you are at home by **keeping the front door closed** behind the storm door.

When you go away for any length of time this Winter, avoid wasting energy by taking these steps before leaving:

- Turn the thermostats in all rooms down to 55° or 60°
- Turn off circuit breaker to the Water Heater
- Unplug your TV set, Stereo, Radio, Toaster, and/or other unnecessary appliances.

• **Snow Emergency Parking**

Winter is approaching and this is a reminder of the “No Parking in Snow Emergency” locations. The designated emergency areas are:

- the small parking area at the Leisure World Boulevard end of Building 17
- the larger parking area at the Leisure World Boulevard end of Building 11
- 3 to 4 parking slots on Glade Drive across from the space between Buildings 12 and 13
- 2 spaces on Glade Drive at the end of the parking area at Building 11.

These spaces have been designated as the areas where snow will be stacked after plowing. Any cars parked in these areas may be snowed in for the winter. Signs will be placed at the appropriate areas to remind our residents, but residents must remind their guests and other non-residents to keep these areas clear.

• **Stairway Safety**

HOLD ON TO THE RAILING!!! when using the stairs. During wet weather, the moisture in the air can settle on the stairs causing them to become slippery.



Hannukah



Begins December 11th
and continues for eight days



**Merry
Christmas
to all**

Why the Census Matters

Although the U.S. is spending \$14 billion on the 2010 census, many people will ignore the survey when they receive it. Only 67% of Americans completed and returned their data in 2000; the Census Bureau used methods such as sending workers to knock on doors to tally the rest. Nonetheless, undercounting and over counting inevitably occur. For example, the bureau estimates that 1.84% of the country's African-Americans were left out of the 2000 count. State and local officials already are mobilizing residents to fill out the 2010 census. At stake is more than \$300 billion a year in federal and state funds for schools, public transportation, hospitals, roads, and other services, all of which is allocated according to census figures.

"The census also determines how many Congressional seats a state has," says William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a nonpartisan think tank. More representatives in Congress means greater influence for a state. The 2010 numbers will be used to redraw Congressional and local legislative district lines for the 2012 elections. The changes can be significant. After the 2000 census, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Texas got two new House seats each; both New York and Pennsylvania gave up two. Florida, Texas, and Oregon are some of the states expected to

gain seats from the 2010 count, while Michigan, Illinois, and Louisiana are among the predicted losers.

Another effect of the upcoming tally: More than 1.4 million workers will be hired by the Census Bureau, temporarily making it one of the nation's biggest employers. Recently, the bureau has dealt with public gaffes and controversies ranging from a failed attempt to use electronic-counting devices to charges from Republicans that the White House wants to use the census for political gain. Still, the bureau's acting director, Thomas Mesenbourg, says, "We are poised to meet the enormous challenges in front of us."

- J. Scott Orr - PARADE Intelligence Report, April 5, 2009



Kwanza December 26th

Reoccurring Distraction Theft Schemes Target Senior Citizens

Montgomery County Police want to remind senior citizens and their families that there are specific distraction-type thefts which continue to occur not only in Montgomery County, but throughout the metropolitan area, and typically target senior citizens. The two primary distraction thefts occur most commonly in elevators in buildings with medical offices and in grocery stores, but are not exclusive to those locations. The suspects committing these crimes usually, but not always, work with an accomplice. Suspects could be a group of two to three males, or a male and female working together.

In May of 2009 there were a series of distraction thefts in buildings with medical offices in the greater Bethesda area. Those buildings included the Kaiser Building at 10819 Connecticut Avenue the Chevy Chase Building at 5530 Wisconsin Avenue and the Camalier Building at 10215 Fernwood Road. In those incidents, all occurring during midday, inside the buildings' elevators, a variety of suspects distracted seniors by feigning the need for assistance (sometimes



pretending to have an arm or sleeve stuck in the elevator) and took their wallets. The victims were usually men.

On Wednesday, October 28, 2009, a similar incident occurred. The 73-year-old male victim got on the elevator in the Camalier Building in Bethesda. Two unknown male suspects were on the elevator with him. One suspect stepped on the victim's foot several times, apologizing each time, and one of the suspects dropped a paper. When the victim got off the elevator and went to pay for a prescription, he discovered that his wallet containing cash and credit cards was missing. He called police. The victim's 10-year-old granddaughter was with him on the elevator and neither one was aware that the wallet was being taken.

These most recent suspects are described as two black males over 6' tall with brown eyes and black hair. One was described as weighing 170 to 200 pounds; the other as weighing between 200 and 250 pounds.

In the distraction schemes in grocery stores, the victims are more commonly female. A suspect pretending to be a shopper will ask for some sort of assistance from an older woman. He may ask which brand of a product she would recommend. Or even claim to be allergic to peanuts and can't read the label, so asks the victim to look at a product package to see if there are any nuts. While the female victim is trying to be helpful, the suspect removes the wallet from her purse. Sometimes the entire purse is taken.

Montgomery County Police want to make certain that senior citizens are aware that these types of crimes do occur and what steps can be taken to help prevent being victimized:

- Men should carry their wallets inside a coat if possible or in a side pocket, never the back pocket. Wrapping a couple of strong rubber bands around a wallet, makes it more difficult to extract.
- Watch out for jostling and physical or verbal distractions which are probably being staged so that a pocket/purse can be picked.
- If you are aware that your pocket has been picked, don't be afraid to yell out or shout for help.
- Be aware that pickpockets often work in teams. One person may appear to be asking you for help or engaging you in some way while an accomplice is after your valuables.

- Women should not leave their purses in shopping carts. Purses should be zipped or buckled closed, carried close to the body, and whenever possible keep a hand on the closure.
- Have some sort of credit card protection in place where the credit card companies monitor the usage and can detect fraudulent activity.
- Be sure to have account information and contact numbers easily accessible in order to call credit card companies as soon as possible after a theft.
- After a theft occurs, call police as soon as possible at 911 or the police non-emergency number of 301-279-8000. Write down some notes of what can be remembered of the suspect(s) to provide as complete a description as possible to police.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Richard Bambach
Vice President: Frank Lozupone
Secretary: Agnes Glass
Treasurer: Paulina Garner
Director: James Moores
Director: Jackie Rabinow
Director: Ralph Romano

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advisory: Agnes Glass & Aleen Phillips
Budget & Finance: Paulina Garner
Landscape: Sharon Moores
Property Maintenance: Frank Lozupone & Bill Buck
Social: Sharon Moores & Mary West

Web Site: <http://www.professionalusa.net/m14/>

Mutual Assistant: Gloria Robar - 301-598-1338

- Building Problems? - **Call** Gloria at 301-598-1338
- Emergencies, when Gloria is not available - **Call** Physical Properties -301-598-1500
- After hours & weekends - **Call** Main Gate - 301-598-1044

Comcast Issues - contact 301-920-9941