

# THE GRAPEVINE



Published by and for Mutual 14 of Leisure World

Issued Monthly – No.387, Apr/May, 2010

## Mark Your



## Calendar

**Next Board Of Directors'**  
**Meeting Thursday,**  
**May 20, 2010**



## JOIN US!!!

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

▶ **M14 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 3**  
**PM. Social Hour at 2 PM in**  
**Clubhouse II.**

▶ Property Maintenance Committee, Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 P, Administration Building

▶ LWCC Executive Committee, Friday, May 14th @ 9:30A, Administration Building

▶ LWCC BOD, Tuesday, May 25th @ 9:30 A, Montgomery Rm. Clubhouse I

## The President's Corner

The azaleas are bursting into bloom as spring continues to contrast with the snows of last winter. This comes at the end of my first year as president of Mutual 14 and it reminds me of how nice it is to live here in Leisure World.

We are fortunate to have had good folks as officers of the Mutual for many years. Our financial condition is strong; with enough in reserves that we can develop needed new programs like our maintenance reserve with only modest additions to the condo fee. Work will continue with the painting of two more buildings this year. We also will be doing other work funded from our stable replacement reserve.

But what I most want to do is thank the residents who volunteer service to the Mutual. Our Building Representatives and Agnes Glass, who chairs the Advisory Committee, are the main way we keep connected as a community. Jackie Rabinow does a special job in maintaining our website and she is the backbone for production of *The Grapevine*. Sharon Moores does double duty, too, in chairing the Landscape Committee and co-chairing the Social Committee with Mary West. As you walk around the Mutual on these beautiful spring days you should think "thanks" to the work of Sharon and the Landscape Committee. And our happy social events of the past year that do so much to make us a pleasant community have been successful only because of the careful planning and hard work of the Social Committee. The care of the Mutual property is in the hands of the Property Maintenance Committee, co-chaired by Frank Lozupone and Bill Buck. That group of hard-working souls keeps our property in good shape and looks after much "nitty-gritty" detail. Hats off to you all.

Leisure World as a whole operates with input from Leisure World Advisory Committees. Our Mutual is represented on many of those committees and I want to thank the residents who have stepped forward and taken on the task of representing us on those committees. It is through you that we have a role in governance of the entire community.

Of course, this leads up to the point that we can continue to be successful only if you, the residents, continue to step up and do your part. We very much need someone to begin to work with Jackie at editing and producing *The Grapevine*, we can use several new members on several of the Mutual Committees, and I will be seeking volunteers for several vacancies on Leisure World Advisory Committees during the summer months (with membership to begin next January). I hope to meet more of you as I seek people to join in the happy task of self-governance of our Mutual.

I look forward to the coming year and hope to see most of you at the Annual Meeting of the Mutual on Thursday, April 22. Social hour begins at 2 PM, the meeting at 3 PM.

— Richard Bambach



Grounds Department can help, charging approximately \$185, depending on the specifics of the job. Call them at 598-1314; *do not call McFall & Berry.*

The Landscape Committee will be looking at your outside spaces during their walk-through on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Owners with outdoor spaces that require attention will be notified by letter and given until June 1<sup>st</sup> to get the work done. After June 1<sup>st</sup> the committee will take action – at the owners' expense.

**What's Going on with the Garden in the Park?**

By Kathy Viney

The triangular bed in the Mutual's park has been receiving some attention lately, and not from the professionals. There's just no room in our annual landscaping budget to have McFall & Berry plant, tend, and water annuals down there.

Members of the Landscape Committee have adopted the bed and this spring intend to mix perennials with annuals, inexpensive purchases with donations from neighbors' or relatives' gardens. We hope you'll like it!

 **Personals...**



- 5/03 – Linda Peters – 17-3G
- 5/07 - Sarah Sutton - 10-2F
- 5/14 – Lorena McCord–14-3E
- 5/28 - Viola Johnson – 12-2E
- 5/29 – Gerry Windham–11-2F

Rosemary Marlowe of 15-1D was moved by her family to an assisted living facility in the Baltimore Area. She'll be missed.

**Landscape Committee** 

**Spring Cleaning Deadline is June 1**

by Kathy Viney

The Mutual 14 Landscape Committee would again like to remind residents that you are responsible for the maintenance of your gardens and patios. A garden (or patio pots and planters) filled with weeds, tall grass, raggedy shrubs, and dead plants is not a pretty sight for residents and a guaranteed turn-off for potential buyers, as are patios used to store 'stuff'.

You may want to consider returning your entire garden to grass, or putting down a thick topping of mulch to inhibit the growth of weeds. If you can't do the work yourself, hire someone who can. PPD's

 **Social Committee**

**Your Social Committee**

The Social Committee met on March 31<sup>st</sup> and set the agenda for this year's events. Details will be published closer to the dates but for now, mark your calendars so you and your guests won't miss out!

Wednesday, **June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm:** Our first outdoor event... a Cook-out.

Wednesday, **July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm:** Who doesn't love our Ice Cream Social.

Wednesday, **September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm:** What a great combination - Pot Luck and Fried Chicken.



Wednesday, **December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm:** Back by popular demand, our Holiday Casino Night.

### **Put your health care papers in order**

(from Consumer Reports on Health – April 2010)

**Get a living will** – This can cover specific procedures you do or don't want under certain circumstances.

**Appoint a health-care proxy** – Living wills can't anticipate every medical decision that might need to be made, give someone you trust "durable power of attorney for health care." That person, known as your health-care proxy, will have the right to make medical decisions on your behalf. Make sure the person understands your wishes and has the emotional strength to follow through on them

**Appoint a financial agent.** - add someone you trust to your checking account, so your bills will be paid if you're incapacitated. Also consider giving that person "durable financial power of attorney" to oversee all your finances.

**Consider a DNR** – A do-not-resuscitate order, usually suggested by a doctor when you're very ill, tells a health-care professional not to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation if your heart or breathing stops and if it would probably not restore you to a meaningful life.

**Get the right forms.** Living wills and other listed forms are recognized nationwide. To find forms you can complete yourself go to [www.caringinfo.org](http://www.caringinfo.org) or [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com). But consider consulting a lawyer too.

**Store them properly** – Give copies of all documents to your doctors and a few trusted family members and friends. Bring them to the hospital when you're admitted. Keep copies in a secure place in your home and make sure that people know where they are so they can find them in an emergency

### **Comments Made in the Year 1955! That's only 50+ years ago!**

▶ I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.00.

▶ Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2,000.<sup>00</sup> will only buy a used one.

▶ If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.

▶ Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?

▶ If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.

▶ When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage.

▶ Kids today are impossible. Those duck tail hair cuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls.

▶ I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying DAMN in GONE WITH THE WIND, it seems every new movie has either HELL or DAMN in it.

▶ I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.

▶ Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.

▶ I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.

▶ It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women have to work to make ends meet.

▶ It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.

▶ Marriage doesn't mean a thing any more, those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat.

▶ I'm afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.



▶ Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to congress.

▶ The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.

▶ There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend, it costs nearly \$15.00 a night to stay in a hotel.

▶ No one can afford to be sick anymore at \$35.00 a day in the hospital it's too rich for my blood.

▶ If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a haircut, forget it.

## Reminders & Vital Info



### • 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

It's that time of year again.

**We need someone to chair our entry into the L.W. July Fourth Parade?**

**Please help us 'wave the flag' by chairing this event. Call Richard Bambach at 301-598-5322 before May 15th, so that we may send in our entry.**

### • Energy Conservation

When you go away for any length of time in the **Summer** (not Winter), avoid wasting energy by taking these steps before leaving:

- Turn off your Air Conditioning
- Turn off circuit breaker to the Water Heater
- Unplug the TV set, Stereo, Radio, Toaster, or other unnecessary appliances.

You can conserve energy, even while you are at home.

- Close the front door, behind the storm doors.

### • Foundation Plantings

Over the years, a great deal of money has been spent by the Leisure World Community, Mutual 14 and its residents to landscape and beautify the grounds

surrounding our homes and apartment buildings. It is the responsibility of the Landscape Committee of Mutual 14 to maintain the trees, shrubs and other plants in the common areas of the Mutual.

Residents of the Plaza Homes and the first floors of the apartment buildings are permitted to plant in an area four feet around their homes. The maintenance of such plantings in the area of four feet by past or present residents is the responsibility of the current residents of the units. This area should be mulched and kept weed-free.

If it becomes necessary for the Board to employ a landscaper to remove unsightly weeds, the bill for this will be sent to the resident. You will be notified about this in advance. Shrubs should be clipped so as not to scratch your aluminum siding. Keep them about a foot clear of the wall.

Your cooperation in abiding by the rules will help maintain the beauty of Mutual 14.



## IN MEMORIAM

Our sincere condolences to Regina Gloyd and her family on the passing of her husband, William Gloyd of 12-2G on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Get Off the Phone!

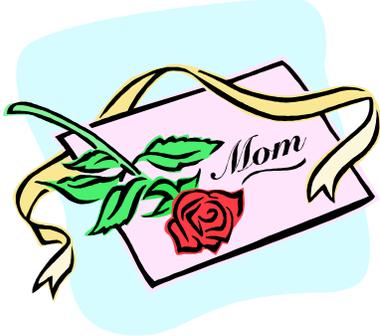
by Kathy Viney

Everybody knows that you shouldn't drink and drive. You're four times as likely to have an accident when driving while intoxicated (DWI). But did you know that response times during "distracted driving", driving while talking on a cell phone (with or without 'hands-free' devices), are equal to that of a drunk driver?

You are four times as likely to have an accident when talking on a cell phone while driving. You are eight times as likely to have an accident when texting while driving. You wouldn't drive while drunk, so why would you drive while distracted by your phone?



## Remember Mother on Mother's Day - May 9th



### Identity Thieves Rob Family of More Than Money

By [Marc Fisher](#)

Diane Benson's dad kept saying that the mail wasn't coming, but he was in his eighties and in declining health. Howard Leiner was even slurring his words, which he'd never done before, so maybe he was wrong about the mail. Benson's mother, May Leiner, couldn't find things in her own house at Leisure World in Silver Spring. She said her camera had gone missing. Then her pocketbook.

The Leiner children assumed their elderly parents were simply losing touch. "She'd been pretty ill and taking Haldol, so we thought she just wasn't lucid," says Benson, who teaches Spanish at Churchill High School in Potomac. Then last spring, when Benson was visiting her parents, the woman who was substituting for their usual caretakers pointed her to Howard Leiner's Hecht's bill, which included items bought at Wheaton Plaza. Benson knew her parents didn't shop there. Next, the bank called to say someone had tried to open a credit card account with Howard's Social Security number. Benson's parents were not losing touch. They were being scammed.

Suspicion quickly centered on two women who were well known around Leisure World as pleasant caretakers. As the Leiners faced growing health problems, they had hired Doris Ortiz and Josselin Aguilera, first to come in a couple of days a week to clean and help Howard, and later to provide round-the-clock care. Benson found credit card receipts for purchases that made no sense in her parents' lives -- women's shoes bought in Wheaton, meals at a Latin restaurant in Silver

Spring, cell phone service. Her suspicions hardened when she learned that the person who attempted to obtain a Citibank credit card under her dad's name was using a Hotmail e-mail account in the name of Josselin Aguilera.

Benson contacted Montgomery County police, who followed the paper and electronic trails, got a search warrant and paid a visit to Ortiz and Aguilera's house in Olney. There, according to court records, they found a letter from Citibank rejecting Ortiz's attempt to open an account using the name "Howard Leiner." In the closet and under Ortiz's bed, police found jewelry, purses, a camera and credit cards belonging to the Leiners. In Aguilera's bedroom, officers found credit cards that had been stolen from another couple at Leisure World as well as a check from Leiner's account. Police found purchases of more than \$2,000 made by the two women with the Leiners' credit cards. Nordstrom Rack in Gaithersburg provided police with surveillance video showing Ortiz and Aguilera paying for merchandise with the stolen credit cards.

### Identity Thieves Rob Family of More Than Money

Benson fired the two women. Almost immediately, she says, her father's speech returned to normal. She now believes the women had been overmedicating him to gain access to his credit cards and financial records. Detective Mark Hayden put together a solid case, including testimony from a witness who heard both suspects say that if they were ever arrested, they planned to flee to El Salvador.

In August, the Leiners and Benson sat in a courtroom in Silver Spring to hear the overwhelming evidence against Ortiz, 52, and Aguilera, 32. Prosecutors said the women had abused their position of trust to rip off Howard Leiner's identity and steal jewelry, family heirlooms, credit cards and the mail (by intercepting Leiner's credit card bills, they could pay the minimum charge each month, allowing them to continue buying thousands of dollars of goods). Facing seven charges related to identity theft, both women pleaded guilty to felony theft, theft of a credit card and use of the card to impersonate someone, court records show. Howard Leiner died before the sentencing a month later, but at that hearing, Benson and her brother-in-law appealed to the judge. "Our only request was that we



asked that these women not be allowed to do to other people's parents what they did to ours," Benson says.

District Court Judge Louis Harrington sentenced Ortiz to 18 months and Aguilera to 11 months. Then he suspended both sentences and put the women on probation for a year. The women did not have to spend a day behind bars. The judge even returned Aguilera's passport. When Benson asked if the women could be required to pay restitution, she remembers Harrington suggesting the losses might be covered by insurance. Harrington did not return calls seeking comment. Ortiz and Aguilera also did not return repeated calls.

Months later, although authorities say they suspect Ortiz and Aguilera are once again soliciting work with the elderly, Leisure World's security director, Richard Schultz, says, "Those individuals are barred from working at Leisure World or even coming into the community."

"Unfortunately, this is one of the fastest-growing areas of crime," says Tom DeGonia, a Montgomery prosecutor who visits Leisure World to help residents protect themselves against identity thieves. "The elderly are from a generation that's much more trusting of people. They come from a time when people left their doors open." Prosecutors say they are getting more judges to take identity theft seriously. Apparently the message hasn't reached Judge Harrington. But Benson is pushing to do an end run around judges who won't do their jobs. She testified this week in Annapolis in support of bills proposed by Del. Carol S. Petzold (D-Montgomery) that would tighten licensing of home caregivers and prevent convicted identity thieves from working for physically or mentally fragile adults. "I was there every day with my parents; my sister was there," Benson says. "And still these women did this. The judge didn't take this seriously, but all of us who have aging parents have to."

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>Advisory:</b>	Agnes Glass & Aleen Phillips
<b>Budget &amp; Finance:</b>	Paulina Garner
<b>Landscape:</b>	Sharon Moores
<b>Property Maintenance:</b>	Frank Lozupone & Bill Buck
<b>Social:</b>	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 301-920-9951