



Newsletter Notes by Karen Kinerk, President

The last month of the year has finally arrived. The focus of December is normally our all-important Annual Meeting with the election of new Directors. What makes this important is that we elect people who will represent us for three years, not unlike electing City Commissioners or even legislative representatives. So, just like you should do for any election, carefully consider what the candidates have to offer as you decide which way to cast your vote.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 3:30 PM. You should have received your packet in the mail or email notification if you agreed to the go-green status. If you did not get notified, check the website (www.villageofwestlakes.com). All of the documents are posted on the website.

As stated, the focus in December normally is the Annual Meeting, but another item of business is taking the focus away from the election. This is the controversy over the pool roof construction. Look for a separate article on the pool roof in the newsletter.

I want to thank **Hal** and **Maureen Kicza** for sponsoring the Thanksgiving potluck. I was not able to be there since I was out of the state, but I am sure that those who participated enjoyed the good food and companionship. The extra work and time by the **Kiczas** and their assistants made it possible for the neighbors to "be neighborly."

We also need to thank the **Kiczas** for the extra effort of providing for the return of a

pancake breakfast. **Carol Lund** and **Dale** and **Kay Elliott** aided their efforts. These types of events are a good way for neighbors to know each other. The folks who volunteer spend their time planning, implementing, and cleaning up after us. This extra effort is appreciated.

While I am thanking people for their service, I want to extend my gratitude to the committee chairs and committees who have extended themselves to make the Village a better place. I especially want to thank my fellow Directors for their time on the Board and their efforts to do what they believe is the best for our community. It takes much unnoticed time to serve on the Board and committees.

Early December will see the election of three Directors and voting on the COVENANTS, but the rest of the month will hopefully be spent with family and friends. Enjoy the holidays and the beginning of a new year.

**Village of Westlakes
HomeOwners
2012 ANNUAL
MEETING
2012 JUNTA ANUAL
Sunday/Domingo
Dec. 9, 2012 – 3:30 P.M.
VWL Clubhouse**

Amendments for COVENANTS on Ballot for Annual Meeting

Those of you who were here last year, should remember that we attempted to update our COVENANTS. We were unable to do so, not because people were against the changes, but because not enough people cast a ballot.

The law requires that 2/3 of all owners approve any changes to the COVENANTS. This means that at least 77 owners must vote to

approve the changes. The people at the 2011 Annual Meeting expressed several opinions of what to do. It was decided that nothing could be done then but maybe next year.

This thought was brought to a Board meeting in October. Those in the audience agreed that the vote should be tried again with a voting extension into January. That is what the Board voted to do. With the extension, voting will continue until January 8,

Amended Covenants continued p. 2, col. 1



Amended COVENANTS continued from p. 1

2013. The results will be announced at the next general Board meeting after the vote concludes.

So if the amendment proposals look familiar, they are. If you did not live in the Village last year, you will want to look over the proposals. Most were made because we no longer have a developer. Some were made because the law required that we follow a different course, and some were made just because we have evolved over the years and made our own changes.

Please take this matter seriously. We do have COVENANTS, but they do not reflect correctly upon our neighborhood. Take the time to cast a vote.

McAllen Public Library offers Adult Internet Basics Class.

Internet Basics - Tue., Dec. 4th. (English)
Internet Basico - Tue., Dec. 11th. (Español)
Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Location: Electronic Classroom A ,
McAllen Public Library (Nolana St.)**

Cost: FREE - GRATIS

**Registration Required: Contact number
956-681-3000**



**Join the Holiday Celebration
Saturday, December 15
5:00 P.M. Social – 6:00 P.M. Dinner**

VWL will celebrate Christmas on Saturday, December 15. The Village will provide the meat. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the clubhouse for everyone to sign up for a side dish. The social hour is at 5:00 with dinner at 6:00. For those who are interested there will be a gift exchange afterward. Gifts should be between \$5 and \$10.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

for December 2012

Que Pasa?

at the
Village of Westlakes

**Village of Westlakes
Annual Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012 at 3:30 P.M.
ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS
VOTE ON COVENANTS UPDATE**

- Golf - Mixed:** Tue., at 10:00 A.M.
- Golf - Mixed:** Wed., at 10:00 A.M.
- Golf - Mixed Best Ball:** Fri., at 10:00 A.M.
- Pool - Water Aerobics:** Tue., Wed., Fri.,
4:00 P.M. - (weather permitting)
- Line Dancing:** Wed., at 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.
- Ladies Lunch:** 2nd Mon., monthly,
Meet at 11:30 A.M. at the restaurant.
- Quilting Class:** Thu., at 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Nov. 29 & Dec. 6
- Social/Cocktails:** Thu., 5:00 P.M.
- Christmas Dinner:** Sat., Dec. 15
Social – 5:00 P.M.
Dinner – 6:00 P.M.
Gift Exchange (\$5.00 to \$10.00)
**Sign up sheet at Clubhouse.*



Ladies Lunch



Dec. 10, 2012, 11:30 A.M.
Olive Garden
7812 N. Tenth, McAllen

Call **Carol Lund** at 683-9522
by Sunday night for reservations.



December 7th...



We remember...





Pool Roof Update

by Karen Kinerk, President

The pool roof construction has hit another snag. As you should know, the roof to the pool cabana was damaged in the spring hail-storm. Insurance money would allow for re-shingling the roof; but since the previous roof was not safe and would not meet code, a discussion was started to consider building a roof that would allow for the solar panels that had been budgeted for the 2011 fiscal year.

The decision to expand the roof was based on the exploration of converting to solar power (again) in 2010 and actually budgeting \$13,000 to do so in 2011 (as specifically noted on the budget provided all members at the 2010 annual meeting). The Board solicited bids and designs, which were shared at the Board meeting last August. Those present in the audience were shown the designs and helped the Board decide that the current design was preferred. Construction began in September. Gregg Groepper was asked to overtake the project once our contractor left before finishing the job. Groepper gave a full accounting at the November meeting.

There is now a group of owners who petitioned on November 9, 2012, to hold a special meeting of all of the Homeowners in order to discuss options about the project. The group collecting the signatures for the petition then asked for answers to some questions on November 12 and received those answers as requested on November 15. On November 18 they demanded that no further work or expenditures occur until they have explored the possible options, including the demolition of the current, almost-finished construction and/or the rebuilding of another roof with a different design. The Board had to conduct an action without a meeting to consider this request. That request was approved unanimously on (November 20) despite many Board members being gone for Thanksgiving.

With this demand to stop work came the threat of legal action if the work was not stopped. The current Board has no wish to hide things, and we saw no reason to incur a cost to all the members of the Village for the legal expense of defending actions that have been done legally. For this reason, the Board voted to postpone any work on the roof until the petitioners hold their special meeting or December 25, whichever comes first.

You should be receiving information concerning the special meeting in the coming days. Make an effort to participate in the discussion and learn the facts and costs of all the options in order to make an informed decision.

Current Status

We now have an approved City of McAllen building permit signed off by a licensed engineer. If we complete repairs in accordance with the approved permit the structure will comply with city codes. The construction will also conform to our architectural standards of a 6/12 pitch roof with conforming shingle color. Any structural modifications to that permit will require amending the permit and necessitate a new engineering study (with additional cost).



Our Sympathy
Nuestro Sentido Pesame
to **Hilda Escobar** (4113 Whitewing
Avenue) on the loss of her sister Mary
Champion this week

The Link – published monthly by
THE VWL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Karen Kinerk	President/Board member
Ken Boyle	Vice President/Board member
Hilda DeShazot	Secretary/Board member
Gregg Groepper	Treasurer/Board member
Dotti Egger	Parliamentarian/Board member
Norm Sands	Bookkeeper
Nedra S. Kinerk	Editor
Laura Coffman & Dotti Egger	Asst. Editors & Reporters


 Made with Apple iMac
 



Update on Plant Pruning

by Gregg Groepper, Chair Grounds Committee

I spent some time this week at Valley Garden Center getting professional advice on how and when to prune the native plants in front of the pool along with the Turks Cap at the 41st Street entrance. The advice from the professionals is as follows:

1. The short blue flowering plant is Betony mist flower. It can be shaped now to keep it within its boundaries, but cutting the tops back, if at all, should be done in mid to late February, only if necessary as it is a year round bloomer. It isn't expected to get any taller than it already is.
2. The taller plant at the back of the bed is another plant of the mist flower family but is not Padre Island mist flower. It is a Fall bloomer and can be trimmed back now that blooming is over.
3. The Turks Cap at the front entrance should not be trimmed until mid February on this one. If we trim now then get a cold snap we could lose the plants. The exception to trimming now, would be if we get another cold snap like last year, we could trim dead material after that.

The Grounds Committee has agreed that this week we should trim the first two plants as discussed above and do nothing for now on the Turks Cap.

BIG THANKS

from Kathy Ament and Judy Boyle

The Thanksgiving get-together was a great success. Much thanks to the **Kiczas** and **Ellotts** for hosting and preparing the turkeys. Thanks to all neighbors and friends who participated and shared great food and conversation with all who were there. *A special thanks to those who stayed to help clean up.*

Now we will look forward to our Holiday get-together on Saturday, December 15.

More thanks to the many who helped with the holiday decorating. What usually takes hours only took a little over an hour — setting up 5 large trees!!! There were too many volunteers to name individually, so *Thank You ALL* so much.

Bienvenidos

WELCOME

NEW NEIGHBORS



Hector & Aleida Garcia

2900 N. 42nd Street
256 603-7067

lot 92

<revmrgarcia@gmail.com>

Rene & Yolanda Garcia

4109 Harvey Circle
655-3022 451-6199 (R)

lot 56

<reneyoligarcia@aol.com>

Hugo & Heather Meyer

4210 Carnation Avenue
800-1022 52 81 1257-4224

lot 12

<hmeyer@totalnetworks.com.mx>

2012 VWL DIRECTORY

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS

pp.

Danny & Michelle Quiroz

moved to: 2616 N. 41st Street

Larry & Mary Rericha

<larrymaryco@gmail.com>

pp. 14 & 27

Kathia Torres

<kathiatorres7@gmail.com>

pp. 16 & 25

Quilting Class

This is for everyone even if you have never sewn a seam. Quilting class at VWL clubhouse on Thursday evening 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. This will be a one or two-week class depending on ability. Classes will begin on November 29 and December 6. If interested or questions please email **Kay Elliott** at <kaydalenh@gmail.com> You may also contact her at 603-986-6402.

The quilt requires a jelly roll of fabric you can purchase at any fabric store or I will furnish what you need for the quilt top for \$15.00.

This quilt is 48 by 64. Great size for lap quilt to cuddle while you watch TV. If you do not have a machine and would like to come I do have a couple of machines I will be bringing. It is very easy to make and great for beginners.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Parting Thoughts for Village of Westlakes by Director Hilda De Shazo

As I say goodbye to my membership on the Village of Westlakes Board of Directors, I take pride in the accomplishments of all the volunteers among our membership who have given greatly of their time and energy to make the community we live in a better place. It is easy to take for granted all the landscaping, hail damage repair, clubhouse events, and the general overall appearance of this subdivision. However, without the hard work of everyone who has volunteered to be part of a work party, or member of a committee, or helped out at special events, we would not have such a beautiful place in which to live.

However, as I leave the VWL Board this December, I can recall a few other times where we have had as much controversy as we presently have over the construction at the pool. All of us who are Board members or have served on this Board in the past have never claimed to be perfect, but at the heart of our volunteer effort is our desire to make our subdivision a better place. I remind myself that we are all part of the same community and need to pull together instead of pulling apart in order to move this community forward.

In my short time on the McAllen ISD School Board, I have observed that while we may not always agree on the school board, once the vote is taken, we put our differences of opinion behind us and move forward, cooperatively, supporting the majority opinion.

We are now at that crossroad in the Village where we are about to put before our members a vote that will determine how we proceed with the construction at the pool. Those individuals who have put forth a petition to reexamine that construction have acted within their rights in calling a special meeting of the members. I trust that going forward, all members will have an opportunity to hear the various options

and the costs associated with those options and then participate in making an informed decision about the future of this project.

I hope the new Board of Directors, whoever that may be, will continue the good government practices of sharing informative agendas, informative minutes, and sound financial practices that have allowed us a comfortable reserve for emergencies. As we move into the next year let us put the emotions behind us; stop to say thanks to our volunteers; resolve to provide positive suggestions instead of promoting negative rumors; be more informed on the facts of the issues instead of dwelling on the emotion and hearsay; and work harder at promoting a more friendly and caring community.

Water Conservation Alert

Due to the low levels of water in the Falcon-Amistad Reservoir the McAllen Public Utilities (MPU) will monitor the water supply conditions to determine if the next stage of our Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan is needed. We are asked to voluntarily join in conserving water whenever possible.

Irrigate between the hours of 6:00 P.M. to midnight, or midnight to 10:00 A.M. Water on Tuesday and Friday for our zone 3 to help keep water pressure across the city constant. Cut down on unnecessary outdoor water use. During Stage 1 water alert, this schedule is voluntary, but if we move to a higher water alert stage, this irrigation schedule must be followed.

Visit the website for more information and to view the current water alert status. <http://mpu.mcallen.net/conservation>

from: MPR water bill insert 11/28/2012

In Our Thoughts and Prayers



Norm Sands (4941 Carnation Avenue) is recovering at home from surgery.



Candidates for Director for Village of Westlakes

ONE-YEAR TERM

Ken Boyle. 2801 N. 43rd Street

I have served the VWL on committees and on the Board every year since Judith and I bought our home here. My service to the Village includes:

- * accepted board responsibilities left when vacancies occurred due to resignations.
- * corrected clubhouse problems that had been neglected.
- * worked on committee to update the COVENANTS and BYLAWS.
- * served as President and Vice President on Board of Directors

I am running for Director to seek completion with projects initiated this past year. I am available to all homeowners by email, phone, or in person if you have an issue or question to discuss. I ask for your vote.

Diego Torres 2909 N. 42nd Street

I have been a resident of VWL since 1999 and have served in the Architectural Committee for 3 years, chaired the Golf league for 3 years and served as Board President for 3 years. Currently I am serving my 5th year as President of a 9 member board "La Piedad Cemetery."

My reason for running is to amicably resolve all the issues facing the current board, to have open discussion of resident concerns and to be transparent on actions involving the residents.

Establish an events committee that presents activities appealing to the majority of the community resulting in increased use of our clubhouse.

THREE-YEAR TERM

Kay Elliott 2704 N. 41st Street

I would bring fresh ideas to the board and focus on current and future issues. Follow the rules as they are written or change the rules so they are the same for everyone. I would like to see an open forum at our meetings because our association is for all home-

owners and we should have some input into running the association and major decisions that are being made.

Above all I would like to protect our property values through fair and thought out actions. Work toward proper care of the golf course, residential, and community areas. Spending monies with good business practices and due diligence.

Thank you for your support and I would appreciate your vote as a board member.

Mary Goss 4117 Camellia Court

My family moved to VWL because of the strong homeowners association that maintains good property values.

I have thirty-six years as a business owner which includes planning, management, and bookkeeping. I have thirty years experience with pool maintenance and help with the VWL pool. I have evaluated the pool condition and have plans that will save pool maintenance costs. I substitute teach and garden in my spare time.

I will uphold our COVENANTS, BYLAWS, and RULES AND REGULATIONS so that VWL continues to deserve the recognition received from McAllen Urban Planning Consultants. I am accessible by phone and email and will make sure your views are presented to the board.

Lydia Mora 4109 Whitewing Avenue

I am married to Julian Mora. I retired one year ago and enjoy staying home. I am running for a 3-year position on the VWL board. I have experience in management, bookkeeping, computer technology, sales, collections and purchasing. I have done volunteer work at McAllen Heritage Center, Palmfest, and served as Village of Westlakes President for two years. I bring my past experience to the table with hope to make a difference for ALL of our community when elected. I ask for your vote and your support.

- I will listen to all issues and vote for what is best for all of the community.
- I will represent you fairly and honestly.
- I will follow the rules & regulations.