

SUTTON PARK PRESS

Sutton Park Condominium

Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month beginning at 6:30 PM in the lower level Community Room

October 2019

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Inside this issue:

Reminders	2
Successful Restaurant	3
Successful Restaurant	4
Washers	4
The DaVines	5
Proud Grandfather	6
Emergency	6
Preparedness	
House & Garden	6
Attitude	7
Electric Bill	7
My Watch	7

Picnic Perfect Weather

Seventy Sutton Park residents and friends spending time together outdoors on August 25 were rewarded with perfect weather, good food and drink, lovely gardens and violinist Katie Worley. A bonus was having the garage roof completed, with all the construction debris and dumpsters gone!

All seamlessly fell into place with the help of many. Planning and executing the event were Cynthia Arrington, Michelle Bartell, Sandy Beery, Esther Blackman, Liz Cook, Joni Dattilo and Roxanne Richardson. Extra helping hands assisting the committee that day were Adele Anderson, Carla Bagarozzi, Marty Becker, Dick Beery, Walt Burrows, Anita Cohen,

Spencer Cook, Andree Douchin, Kevin Drew, Hildabeth Kline, Steve Lane, and Jon Meccarello. Extra tables were provided by Eileen Petrillo, the Beerys and the friends of Lila Hersh. Thanks,

too, go to staff members Stan Siwiec, Jamie Yeaw, and Eileen McFadden who provided

behind the scenes set up and clean up. Celia Carretta supplemented the Savoia cookies with her own homemade sweet treats. Maureen McCoy made certain the gardens and lawn were in excellent condition for all of us to enjoy.

If you have suggestions and comments about another outdoor social

event for the summer of 2020, please contact Cynthia Arrington, Carla Bagarozzi, Michelle

Bartell, Sandy Beery, Esther Blackman, Liz Cook, Joni Dattilo or Roxanne Richardson. If you would like to be part of the planning for the HOB-sponsored social events, join us!

Sandy Beery



A Few Reminders

Dick and Sandy Beery are having a **House Concert** in Condo #204 on Saturday November 16 at 7:00 PM, featuring Michael Lasser, Cindy Miller and Alan Jones, who will present the works of Irving Berlin. The Beerys will welcome guests at 7 and the concert will start at 7:30. Seating is limited so let Dick know if you plan to come at (330)-465-8306 or dbeery@3oaksretreat.com.

speeds, please see the information on the bulletin board in the Second Class Mail Room.

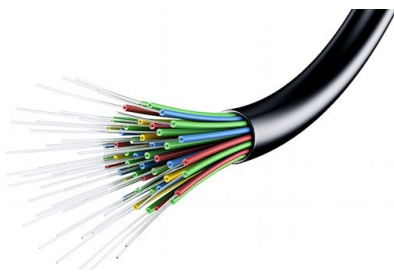
baskets. Similar bags, *Wegman's Medium Size Kitchen Bags*, will be available for sale at Wegman's.

The Doorpersons request that when someone **drops you off** in front of the Main Lobby in the A Building, please ask your driver to pull away quickly, so that the next car in line can move up.

If you buy a **new bicycle** and plan to keep it in the garage, please register it with OSM Stan Siwec and get a sticker to place on it. Since Stan and the Bicycle Committee have donated several orphaned bikes to charities, there should be plenty of room in our racks for you to store your new one safely without fear of damage due to overcrowding.

Fiber Optic Cable ISP **Green-light** will start installing at Sutton

Park when 37 households sign up. Currently 34 have signed up. For details about registration, pricing and download



After January 2020,

plastic grocery bags will not be free at the checkout line in local supermarkets. Many people reuse them (because of their convenient size) for many household tasks, such as bagging items to put in the Trash Chute or Dumpster, and to line waste



al orphaned bikes to charities, there should be plenty of room in our racks for you to store your new one safely without fear of damage due to overcrowding.

Reminders from the OSM

Trash Chute: Please don't throw heavy or breakable objects down the Chute. Recently, someone dropped down a number of heavy cans of household cleaners, pots and pans, and glassware and bottles, all of which could have damaged or broken the Compactor. More importantly, Stan, Jamie, or any of the Door People could have been injured. Janet Mushtare and Kevin Drew have been cut in the past by shards of broken glass scattered on the floor of

the Compactor Room after bottles exploded.

Pet Waste: Jamie requests that pet owners please put all pet waste material, such as cat litter, in bags which are then tied securely, and then taken to the Dumpster.

Roof: No one should go on the roof without specific permission of the OSM. It is apparent that

the roof has become a smoking lounge because Stan has found over 50 cigarette butts there.



Smoking; Except for a few owners who have "grandfathered" smoking privileges within their own condos, smoking is prohibited everywhere else in Sutton Park including Common Areas, balconies, the outside grounds--and the roof.

the roof.

How to Manage a Successful Restaurant

Owning and running a restaurant successfully is a dream shared by many business people, but very few restaurants are in business six months after opening. Two men associated with Sutton Park, Ralph Masi, who owned and operated Ralph's Café on St. Paul Street for decades, and Todd Nowak, who was the equally successful owner of Fairfield's Grill in Penfield for many years, shared their experiences in two separate interviews. A short article cannot include all the reasons their operations prospered, but below is a brief summary of some things both men tried that worked.

Know the Business: Ralph, a longtime resident of Sutton Park, literally grew up in Ralph's Café; he worked side by side with his father from an early age. One lesson he learned from him was "Do it Right!" This meant not stinting on quality, buying and serving only the best quality food available.

Todd had an extensive background in the corporate world, had formerly run an electronics business, and was a silent partner in Fairfield's Grill, which was originally started by his brother, for eighteen months before he took it over. Todd explained that many restaurants are opened by chefs, bartenders, or head waiters, who know only one aspect of a complex operation and lack training and

experience in sound business practices.

Invest in the Employees: The restaurant industry is noted for high employee turnover, caused primarily by low wages, long hours, and high pressure. Ralph cared about those in his employ; he took pride in saying that one of his cooks didn't miss a workday in 22 years.



Todd, having come from the corporate sector, was accustomed to investing in employees to maintain long term loyalty. He helped them to buy

health insurance long before the ACA existed, and arranged their schedules so that each of them had two days off per week. He took personal interest in the employees and was everything "from chauffer to psychiatrist" in their lives.

Listen to Your Customers and Serve Them What They Want: Ralph's Café became noted for very high quality steak sandwiches because he heeded his father's advice; he purchased only the best prime rib and bought the freshest bread from a highly regarded local bakery. Although the café has now been closed for several years, Ralph notes that he still encour-

ters former customers who remind him that he served "the best steak sandwich in Rochester".

Todd started serving only baked or broiled fish for health reasons on Friday nights, but he quickly realized that he was losing business because potential customers preferred a traditional fish fry. When he bought a deep fryer and offered a fish fry in menu sizes from a "Minnow" to a "Jaws", business boomed. Similarly, customers wanted rich desserts, so he started serving desserts that his wife made. Later, he built a large glass case, which he filled with desserts and placed near Fairfield's Grill's entrance so that diners saw them when they entered. Long story short, desserts sold so well that he hired a pastry chef to keep up with the demand.

Get Repeat Business: Since Ralph's Café became known for such high quality food, some of his most frequent customers were the very suppliers who sold it to him. Since the restaurant was near two industrial laundries and the Genesee Brewery, he kept the menu short and the prices low, so that working people could afford to eat there often. Ralph advertised that he ate his own cooking, that he ate his meals in his own place, so he had immediate credibility.

Continued on next page

How to Manage a Successful Restaurant continued

Todd served lunch all afternoon with the result that he had a steady flow of customers until dinner time. Busy people could eat whenever their packed schedules allowed them a break. Fairfield's Grill's atmosphere was casual so that people from all walks of life, whether dressed in jeans or expensive suits, were comfortable there. He didn't encourage a late night crowd at the bar,



which he closed at eleven; women who were alone and families with children felt safe.

Obviously, many more factors are involved for restaurants to thrive for so long, and a brief article can't list them all; but one can't be omitted, namely the personalities of both men. Both Ralph and Todd are committed family men who raised children, and in Ralph's case, nieces and nephews too. After major-

ing in Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental studies at Notre Dame with the plan of a life devoted to caring for others, Ralph was a Medic in the Korean War. All of Todd's businesses, including the current one remodeling condos ("Make Your List"), involve providing personal services to others. Both Ralph and Todd are warm, witty and welcoming—nice guys you'd like to join for lunch or dinner.

Garry Mount

Those Damn Washers!

Recently many machines have been breaking down so often that only a few are available when residents arrive in the Laundry Room to do their weekly washing and drying. Property Manager Chad Fetterman is currently getting quotes from companies as the Board considers leasing new washers and dryers. The major objection to leasing new machines is that the cost per load could increase by 5 or 6 times the modest fee which residents pay now. Meanwhile, here are some suggestions from individuals at Sutton Park to help make your visit to the Laundry Room less stressful:

Don't Overload the Washers and Dryers—Stan and the repair technician state that the most common reason for machine breakdown is overloading. An article from "Fred's Kitchen", found by Jeff Larson, suggests that stuffing too many soiled items into a washing machine can damage clothes and leave them dirty. "Fred's Kitchen" recommends leaving a minimum of 6 inches between the drum and the top layer of garments. Similarly,



Stan states that the dryers are not powerful enough to handle very large loads or unusually heavy items, such as sleeping bags, down comforters, or some bedspreads.

Don't Forget to Pick Up Your Clothes—Prudy Medina notes that some people forget to unload their clothes promptly so that machines sit idle for long periods. If you leave the Laundry Room, make a mental note or schedule an alarm on your phone or Apple Watch to remind yourself to return.

Schedule Your Visit at Slow Times—Bruce Thompson notes that many people do their laundry on weekends, especially Friday night, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. To avoid waiting for machines to be available you might try a week night or week day.

Report Breakdowns Promptly—Let Stan know because often he can fix them right away without calling a repairman. Some repairs are as simple as removing a bent coin from a slot. Leave a note in the box by his office or call.

The Beery's Welcome the DaVines

On August 2 Dick and Sandy Beery were hosts to over 30 lucky guests in their beautiful condo when they presented the DaVines. Fred and Alex Vine, a father-son duo, awed a rapt audience with their mastery of several guitar styles and their vocal and instrumental renditions of 23 songs from several different musical traditions. They are skilled entertainers who engaged their audience with humor, autobiographical stories, and, most of all, their new ar-



rangements of familiar standards and their own original compositions. Fred and Alex brought several guitars and used them all; they both displayed virtuosity as they played complex chord progressions, alternated rhythm and melody parts, used slide guitar techniques, and even played the very challenging steel guitar. They vocalized harmonies, sang solos, and played instrumentals. Both have strong voices while Fred sang in a lower register than Alex, who had more range. Both men were always on key as they handled many numbers, including some with long and difficult lyrics.

Not all their songs from a two hour concert will be listed in a brief review, although the musical traditions and the famous performers whose hits they performed

can be noted. From a pantheon of Blues artists were standards by Doc Watson, Robert Johnson, Jimmy Reed and Son House. From Pop music were songs by Frank Sinatra and the Beatles; from the Country tradition were familiar favorites by Glen Campbell and Hank Williams. The DaVines also presented famous compositions by Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix, geniuses too original to fit into simple categories.

The most moving songs of the concert were the originals composed by Fred and Alex. Alex played and sang his “Inter-Planetary Broadcast Blues”, a very challenging piece. Father and son collaborated on “Who’s Who of the Blues”, a humorous homage to many black Blues musicians famous before World War II. In “New Orleans Heart” Fred shared the joy he felt during an extended stay in the Big Easy. “What Happened to the Love?” expressed poignant memories of teenage friendships and the freedom of adolescence. Fred shared in “A Feel for this Town” regret about lost loves and laments about changes in Rochester. “Steady Chump Change” was a humorous self-portrait of Fred’s career as a freelance musician. “Genesee Delta Sounds” celebrated Rochester’s

attractions, including Brother Wease’s show, Nick Tahou’s restaurant—even our long winters.

There were touching moments when the delight both men felt performing together was obvious. At one point Fred exclaimed that it was “beyond his wildest dreams” that one day he would perform with his son. During two songs, Fred’s life companion Lynn joined them on the ukulele, and sang beautifully too.

During the concert Fred said it was a “privilege” to be in the pit orchestra of GEVA’s recent presentation “Resurrection”. It was thirty guests’ privilege to be in the Beery’s home, where we enjoyed excellent food and drink, and experienced a moving performance by two very accomplished artists.

A Proud Grandfather

Bill Mendick, a longtime resident at Sutton Park, was interviewed on Channels 9, 10, and 13 on June 13, and was the subject of a long article in the *Democrat&Chronicle* Sunday edition on June 14. The interviews and article celebrated Bill's seventy years as a season ticket holder of the Rochester Red Wings, and his pride in his grandson Danny Mendick's first professional baseball game played in Rochester since his graduation from Pittsford Mendon high school in 2011. The



article in the *D&C* also portrayed Bill's career, first as a butcher in his family's meat market, and later as a very successful builder.

Danny's progress up the ladder of professional baseball was detailed in that article, in online publications, and in another *D&C* article on September 4. After high school he graduated from MCC, finished

college at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, and was playing for the Charlotte Knights, the Chicago White Sox AAA team, when he played here in June. He was promoted to the White Sox on September 3 and has played several games in the major leagues at shortstop, third base, and second base. At the time of this article he is hitting .333, hit 1 home run, and stolen 1 base. As Maureen McCoy says "he's living the dream".

Garry Mount

Be Prepared for an Emergency

Bulletin from the American Red Cross

The Red Cross recommends that you have on hand the following essential items if you have to "shelter in place" in your condo for 3 days during a power outage or other emergency:

- Water-1 gallon per person per day.
- Food- items which don't need refrigeration and won't spoil. Hand operated can opener.
- Flashlights with extra batteries.
- Medications-all prescriptions and OTC medicines up-to-date.



- Radio-Battery operated or hand-crank.
- Cash-because ATMs and credit cards won't work.
- Telephone-Some cellphones won't work and can't be recharged, so you may have to rely on a landline phone.

For more information on emergency preparedness and disaster planning go to redcross.org/ny/rochester

House and Garden Committee

The Lobby, Library, and rear entrance are decorated for the Fall season. Soon the flowers will be removed and the gardens will be put to bed until Spring. With the removal of the tree on the West side, the small kidney



garden was opened up and now showcases the sculpture donated a few years ago by Jan Premich. The City removed two trees which in-

fringed on our property and obscured our view of East Avenue. The City ground up the stumps and trimmed adjoining trees resulting in a much improved appearance.

Maureen McCoy

Attitude

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important to me than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, than giftedness



or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the inevitable. The only

thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% is how I react to it. And so it is with you...you are in charge of your attitude.

Maureen McCoy

Keep Saving on Our Electricity Bill

The annual budget line item for electricity at Sutton Park is \$85,000, and all owners pay the bill through our HOA fee. At the end of August Sutton Park is below budget by \$6,538, or 12%. Here are a few suggestions from N’dea Yancy-Bragg in an article titled “Your Electricity Bill Doesn’t Have to be Shocking” in USA TODAY, which may help us save even



- more:
- Heating/Cooling- Keep your blinds open in Winter and closed in Summer. Set the temperature on your HVAC unit from 68-72 F in Winter and from 75-78 F in Summer.
 - Appliances- Unplug energy “vampires” whenever you’re not using them: smart phone charger, laptop computer, and coffee

- Washers-Wash your clothes in cold water whether in the Laundry Room or in a washer in your unit.
- Windows-Invest in modern, energy-efficient windows.
- Lights-Replace incandescent bulbs as they burn out with LED bulbs. When you leave a room for long periods, shut off the lights.

Garry Mount

My Watch

There is a lie the advertisers tell With icons wearing watches sitting in old railroad shacks or outhouses; as if

I should buy this watch to be this nonchalant To stay in a farmhouse With tattered curtains

With my twenty-one-hundred-dollar watch

I should not look at you but more stage-right through the broken window out upon more desolation But I would know what time it is

Secure within this world despite surrounding pain I should look askance~ keep myself in profile; Let my watch do the talking

Alan William Gray