

The Inverness "I"

Vol. 6. No 4.

Oct 2015

From the Editor

I've been musing --- The waning days of summer cause one to reflect as we enter a more active season.

First, the Village is getting spruced up. After a season of rapid growth of trees and shrubs, the landscape crew came through and gave the bushes a neat shaping. Also, there has been a good bit of tree work either trimming or removal. One can't help but feel a sense of pride and relief as the overall appearance has improved noticeably.

Egan, the contractor who did the village painting, is now engaged in wood replacement. They are a firm with a fine reputation and surely all interests will be served.

Community and communication have always been a major goal of ours for the newsletter. In this issue you will see three village social events between now and the end of the year. Be sure to mark your calendar.

We are especially pleased to draw your attention to an item of interest to all seniors. Tom Delaney, a member of our Village Council and a partner in the law firm Delaney and Scott, has a very informative piece on Power of Attorney documents. Don't miss page 7.

Terry Marran informed us that the i-neighbors site will no longer be in use. As well as that posting, Terry has been wonderful in emailing up to date Village news. We thank her for this.

Barbara Colby

From The Village President

Budget season is upon us! The Village Council met on Wednesday, September 17, to discuss present needs, future needs and requests for 2016 and beyond. The Village Finance Committee will be meeting September 30 to look over the figures and present a preliminary budget to Council for an October 2 Village Council meeting. The Finance Committee is comprised of Tom Delaney (#767) as Chair, Jim McArdle (#703) and Al Nichols (#706).

The Insurance Policy, the Trash Contract and the Master Fee will have slight increases for 2016. The cost for snow removal will remain at the same base price as the last three years so hopefully the storms will be fewer. The landscape contract will also remain the same for 2016. Items which may increase in the budget include water, alarms, and the reserve contribution. The open meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, at 7:00PM for refreshments with the business meeting beginning at 7:30PM. The meeting, as always, will be held in the Community Center.

Requests have been made for residents walking their dogs to avoid walking them on the grass directly in front and back of homes. Please pick up after your pet and a big THANK YOU for those who are doing so.

The use of trucks for moving personal items requires approval from Hershey's Mill Management prior to begin-

Continued on Page 2.

ning loading. Also required as well is approval for bringing dumpsters into the Village for home renovations.

Ants for some homeowners are very difficult. The pest control contract allows for spraying OUTSIDE for ant control. Do not start home treatment prior to calling Hershey's Mill Management (484-883-8373.) The home remedies make it more difficult for the professionals to do their job.

The Village has been going through a transition of residents over the last two years. On October 15, the Social Committee is planning a CHILI SUPPER at the Community Center. All should get or have gotten a flyer with the pertinent information. Please attend and contact your new neighbors to be sure they attend.

The Master Association will be working on Pool House Design, Walking Trails and access to the top floor of the Community Center over the rest of the year. The small increase in the Master Fee is for some capital improvements at the sewer treatment plant. The increase will not exceed \$1.00 a month.

Boyd Mackleer

In Memoriam

Harry Whitman

July 14, 2015

Evelyn Nelson

September 5, 2015

Our sincere condolences
to their families.

SAVE THE DATE:

The very special Inverness Ladies Luncheon is to be held at the Hershey's Mill Golf Club on Saturday, NOVEMBER 7.

This will be the 26th year that this event has been planned by Doris Harry, Trudi Roderick and Rita Cordivari. Their special talent and considerable effort are obvious from the moment one enters the dining room, and even the conviviality of the guests adds to the success.

This popular and well attended event is not to be missed! Watch for a future communication as the date draws near.

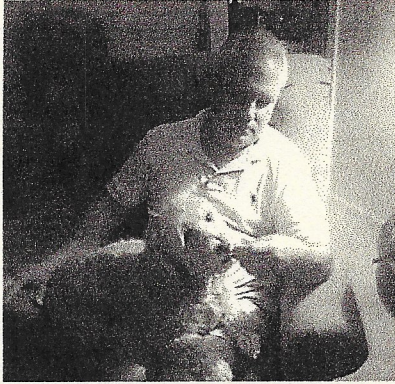


Letters To The Editor

We recently received a letter from an upset resident who would like us to request that dog walkers not let their pets approach close to homes, and especially not let them on the walkways to do their business. Common courtesy would include respect for residents' pride in their environs and their privacy.



Interview with the Managing Agent



We appreciated the opportunity to talk with Jeff Bevan, president of Hershey's Mill Management Inc., which is the Managing

Agent for both Inverness and five other villages within Hershey's Mill, as well as several outside properties. In this capacity, his company provides the professional services required for the smooth functioning of village life.

As described by Jeff, the functions performed by the Managing Agent fall generally in three areas: Financial Services, Contracts, and Administrative Services.

Financial Services includes the preparation of a budget proposal, the collection of condo fees, and the payment of bills. A budget proposal is prepared by Jeff with suggestions from others, forwarded to the Village budget committee for review, and then to the Council for approval. As part of this process, a Reserve Fund study is conducted to forecast future maintenance and repair needs.

For the implementation of **Contracts** for Village work, the office, in conjunction with Council input, identifies potential suppliers, solicits sealed bids, and presents the bids to the Council for final selection of a vendor. The Managing Agent's office then negotiates the contract and oversees the execution.

Administrative Services is the initial interface with residents. In addition to answering questions or helping to solve problems, work requests received are logged and forwarded to the appropriate Village committee for review and action. Support is also given to the Village Council on the updating of the Rules and Regulations.

The office staff assigned to work on Inverness business includes Ed Griffith, the chief financial officer, Stacy Bernotas, the administrative assistant, and Andrea Pardo, who oversees inspections. Others in the office work with different villages.

Work request forms can be e-mailed to Stacy at Stacy@hmm101.com, or mailed to Hershey's Mill Management Inc, P.O.Box 994, Kimberton PA 19442.

Personal Notes: Jeff Bevan grew up in this area, and specializes in the financial sector. During the 19 years that Wooldridge was building units and managing villages in Hershey's Mill, Jeff was part of his operation. Following completion of the building phase, Jeff left the Wooldridge operation and founded Hershey's Mill Management Inc. to provide managing agent services.

Jeff and his wife Lisa, a first-grade school teacher, are proud parents. Their oldest son, Jeffery Jr, is in Drexel medical school, younger son, Sean, is at West Chester University, and daughter, Amy, is at Villa Maria academy in Malvern.

George Colby

TO KNOW BIRDS IS TO LOVE THEM by Wilbur B. Amand, VMD

Hershey's Mill provides residents with a very naturalistic, environmentally pleasing place to live. The landscaping invites a variety of native wildlife, which includes an abundance of bird species to share our environment. According to the American Ornithological Union, over 800 species of birds have been identified in North America. In Pennsylvania, approximately 430 bird species have been identified. And closer to home, 185 species of birds have been identified in Exton Park. Each year the West Chester Bird Club (WCBC) conducts a Winter/Christmas Bird Count. A number of different teams are sent out into the field (various habitats) to identify species and the number of each species seen. This past year a total of 81 species totaling 58,267 individuals were counted. In Hershey's Mill alone, 26 species were identified, including:

- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Canada Goose
- Ring-Necked Duck
- Bufflehead
- Rudy Duck
- Cooper's Hawk
- American Coot
- Ring-Billed Gull
- Mourning Dove
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- House Finch
- American Crow
- Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- White Breasted Nuthatch
- Carolina Wren
- American Robin
- Northern Mockingbird
- European Starling
- Song Sparrow
- White-Throated Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Northern Cardinal
- American Goldfinch

The WCBC Christmas/Winter Bird Count will take place on December 19, 2015.

For many of us, observing birds is a very relaxing, pleasant pastime. As you may already know, Hershey's Mill is an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary where bird watching can be a year-round "hobby." To encourage birds to visit our homes, many put out bird feeders. As winter approaches, many birds change some of their eating habits - switching from insects and berries to supplement their diets - and seek a reliable source of food for wintertime survival. As we know, many species migrate south for the winter. But what about those birds that do not migrate?

Being warm blooded animals, birds must maintain their body temperature in the face of very variable climatic temperatures. Their ability to maintain a body temperature within a normal range depends on the amount of (metabolic) heat the bird produces. To keep up their high metabolic rate, most backyard birds eat rich, energy foods such as seeds, insects and suet. Feeders help birds find an easy source of food throughout the winter season, especially in the face of sudden drops in temperature or sudden winter storms.

So, what type of bird feeder do you choose? There are essentially three types of feeders - hanging, hopper, and tray/platform feeders. Choose a feeder that is sturdy, easy to fill, and easy to clean. The size/volume of the feeder really depends on the space you have to place the feeder. Hanging feeders are particularly attractive to chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and finches. Ground feeders (cardinals, wrens, jays, and grosbeaks) are particularly attracted to hopper and platform feeders. Feeders should be located out of the wind, but be aware not to locate the feeder too close to a window to avoid birds crashing into a window and injuring themselves. The east or southeast side of a house or near a row of trees is ideal. And the feeders should be positioned near cover but in the open to allow birds to watch for danger. Many birds will feed at more than one level, while some species have preferences:

- Ground level - morning doves, sparrows, towhees, and juncos
- Table level - cardinals, finches, and jays
- Hanging feeders - titmice, finches, and chickadees
- Tree trunks - woodpeckers, nuthatches, and wrens

To Know Birds Is To Love Them by Wilbur B. Amand , VMD (continued) ..

An essential consideration is purchasing a feeder that is "squirrel proof." While this may seem impossible, the use of baffles and wire mesh cages around hanging/tube feeders will discourage squirrels from helping themselves to an easy meal. Other wildlife such as raccoons and fox may also visit the feeders. Luckily for us we do not have to contend with bears and moose (at least not yet), although in harsh winters white-tailed deer may take advantage of bird feeders to grab a "snack."

Now that you have the feeder, what seed do I feed? There are a number of things to consider:

- Mix proportions - opt for a blend that has better seeds such as sunflower and millet with little filler such as milo and corn.
- Freshness - fresh seed will not have excessive dust, empty hulls or inedible debris. Avoid seed with any sign of mold, mildew, or insect infestation.
- Packaging - better quality birdseed is often packaged in sturdy plastic or coated paper bags. Clear packaging allows inspection of the product before purchase, but there are many good quality products in coated paper bags.
- Ingredients - check the ingredient list to ensure that the birdseed has not been treated with pesticides or insecticides that might be toxic to birds.
- Price - higher prices do not necessarily mean a better or higher quality seed.

As winter approaches, provide high calorie/high fat foods (seed/suet). Choose a seed mixture that contains black-oil sunflower (not gray striped) seed, cracked corn, peanut pieces and other pieces of nuts, millet, safflower, and niger/thistle seed. Make sure that the seed is fairly dust free as well as free of any signs of mold. Some species like robins, bluebirds, mocking birds, and orioles enjoy fruit such as oranges and apples. Store opened seed bags in metal or plastic air tight containers to keep the seed fresh.

While not a bird seed, many birds are attracted to suet (beef fat). You will find a wide variety of suet types, many mixed with bird seed, berries, and peanut butter. Suet should be offered in a special wire cage made to hold suet. Some of the birds that enjoy suet are chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and wrens.

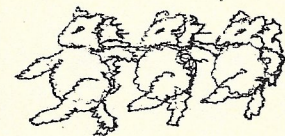
What about water? Birds do need a source of water in the winter. If there is not an open source of water (streams, ponds, lakes) bird baths or some plastic container can be a good water source as long as you can provide a heater to help prevent the whole bath from freezing.

If you have any questions, please pass them along and we will try to include them in future discussions. In a spring edition of the Inverness "I", I hope to address ways to help spring migrating birds, and what birds want in a birdhouse.

As you read this, billions of birds have embarked on their epic migration from breeding grounds to warmer winter habitats. So sad that for too many, their epic journey will end lethally and suddenly by slamming into buildings and other man-made structures. Studies have shown that as many as 988 million migratory birds die from building collisions each year. And it's up to us to do something about that. That's why Audubon has launched a campaign to address 21st Century threats to migratory birds.

I hope we all have a fairly mild fall/winter season and enjoy birding in Hershey's Mill.

Editor's Note: As a result of space limitations, Wilbur Amand's informative Pet 's Rule column will appear in the next newsletter..



The photos below show a sampling of a few of the attendees at the recent very successful casual luncheon gathering of Inverness ladies at McKenzie's. It was a very nice opportunity to meet and chat with some of our neighbors with whom we have little contact ordinarily. Theresa Carrone, with the assistance of Sue Kelleher, demonstrated her talent for organizing such events. There likely will be requests for an occasional one in the future so plan to attend when it comes about.



RECIPE: Jim's Cheesy Veggie Bake

- 1 box Penne Pasta
- 2 yellow squash
- 2 zucchini
- 1 yellow onion
- 1 red bell pepper
- Smoked Mozzarella cheese
- Fontina cheese
- Olive oil
- 1 jar mushroom Spaghetti sauce
- Butter
- Grated Romano cheese



Cook 1 box of Penne pasta in boiling salted water until almost al dente. About 10 minutes.

While the Penne is cooking, cut to the same size:
2 yellow squash, 2 zucchini, 1 onion, 1 red bell pepper.

Put all veggies on a cookie sheet, drizzle with olive oil, add salt and pepper to taste. Spread in an even layer and cook at 450 for 15 minutes, or until caramelization just begins.

In a large bowl combine veggies and pasta, add 1 cup smoked Mozzarella and 1 cup grated Fontina. (hot pasta and veggies will melt cheese). Add 1 jar of mushroom spaghetti sauce.

Turn all out into a buttered baking dish, top with grated Romano cheese and dot with butter. Bake 25 minutes at 425. ENJOY!

Jim Ellis

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

(Courtesy of Tom Delaney)

We live in a time of constant erosion of common sense replaced with many rules and regulations. When designing an estate planning program, you must consider a will, a trust, advanced medical directive and power of attorney. Everyone has a will, either one the person prepared and signed or one prepared by the Commonwealth (intestate laws). This document, of course, is used only once at the time of death.

Most people, however, may use a power of attorney at least once in their lifetime, especially during a time of incapacity.

A durable power of attorney is a written document required to be dated, signed by the person granting the power (Principal), acknowledged before a notary and witnessed by 2 individuals age 18 or older and not named as Agent in the power of attorney. Pennsylvania law also requires statutory language at the beginning of the power of attorney notifying the Principal that he or she is executing a power which is granting broad authority to the Agent named in the document.

The power of attorney requires that the Agent act in accordance with the Principal's reasonable expectation, act in the Principal's best interest, act in good faith and act only within the scope of authority granted to the Agent by the Principal in the power of attorney.

The power of attorney grants extraordinary powers to the Agent which can be limited by the document, e.g., power to make gifts. The power of attorney also imposes duties on the Agent, e.g. loyalty, keep funds separate, no conflict of interest, act with care and competence and diligence, keep record of all transactions, cooperate with person authorized to make healthcare decisions, attempt to preserve Principal's estate plan to the extent actually known. The Agent assumes liability if there is a lack of care, competence and diligence in his/her use of the power. The power of attorney generally becomes effective immediately. It is therefore a valuable document which should be kept safely until needed. The named agent should be trustworthy but should not have the document until needed. The power of attorney does not expire by reason of lapse of time and does not need to be the form used by the bank.

In addition, to financial powers of attorney (durable power of attorney), there is a need, in today's ever expanding rule, regulations and bureaucracy to have a medical power of attorney. The power can be incorporated into the same document as the durable power. However, many people select one person to manage finances and another to make healthcare decisions. The medical power of attorney must make provisions authorizing the Agent to act in place of the Principal so he or she is allowed to obtain medical information from physicians and medical providers (i.e. waive the HIPPA instructions).

Generally, the medical power of attorney becomes operative when a copy is provided to the attending physician and the physician determines the principal is competent. The health care agent has the same rights as the Principal and can consent or refuse to treatment and disclosure of medical information. However, a person of sound

mind may countermand any health care decisions made by his or her agent especially any decisions by the agent that would withhold or withdraw life sustaining treatment.

Powers of attorney are extremely useful and a much "friendlier" method of managing an incapacitated person's financial and medical affairs than a formal guardianship. Guardianships require court proceedings, legal and expert, expenses and are time-consuming to accomplish. Powers of attorney are just part of planning for the future but, hopefully, they will not be needed if all goes well.

Tom Delaney

UPCOMING LOCAL AREA EVENTS

With the holidays fast approaching, we can find numerous venues which will put us in the mood to celebrate, beginning at Thanksgiving or the week before.

Longwood Gardens and Winterthur offer lovely floral displays and decorations. Organ concert sing-alongs and a variety of musical events are held each day at Longwood, while Winterthur has two exhibitions on view until January: *Tiffany Glass: Painting with Color and Light*; and *A Colorful Folk: Pennsylvania Germans and the Art of Everyday Life*.

The Brandywine River Museum of Art continues its tradition of critter-decorated trees, a gallery devoted to the Brandywine Railroad, a display of Ann McCoy's antique dolls, and the Scaife dollhouse.

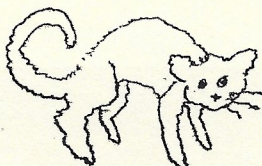
Two local theatres have special productions for the holidays. The People's Light and Theatre Company offers its new panto this year — *The Three Musketeers (The Later Years): a Musical Panto*, a humorous telling of a familiar story.

The Hedgerow Theatre marks the holidays with its 23rd annual presentation of the classic Charles Dickens' tale *A Christmas Carol*.

Planning for the holidays should include buying tickets to Longwood and the theatres well before the events, since all of the venues can be very crowded.

The Immaculata Symphony presents its fall concert on Saturday, November 7. Appreciators of classical music find these performances very satisfying. The Chester County Concert Band will perform popular music at Fugett Middle School on Sunday, November 8th. The admission price for both of these events is minimal.

Carol Ellis / Barbara Colby



Each winter we wave goodbye to our neighbors as they depart for Florida, and wonder just what draws them there (other than the weather) and where they are. Therefore we asked some of our "snowbirds" to tell us about their favorite winter getaways in Florida.

DISNEY WORLD IS NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN

Disney World is a magical place and not just for children. Called "the happiest place on earth," it offers beautiful resorts, fine dining, and a variety of entertainment. We have made several trips to Disney World and plan to visit it again and again.

We have found that to fully enjoy our visit, we should stay at a Disney resort, so that we can take advantage of the shuttle services, launches and monorails, and not have to commute each day. Therefore, on our first visit, we chose the Beach and Yacht Club primarily for its proximity to Epcot and for its beauty, its amenities, and its swimming pools, and we have stayed there on every visit since. Epcot offers various experiences that appeal more to adults (the foreign country pavilions, the Hall of the Presidents, Tomorrowland, etc.) and the World Showcase restaurants, which are excellent (the Rose and Crown, Chefs de France, San Angel Inn Restaurant). We have especially enjoyed the elaborate fireworks display at night. By staying at the Beach and Yacht Club, we can easily walk back and forth to Epcot, ride the shuttle to the other resorts and parks, and take the launch to Hollywood Studios.

We always purchase the Park Hopper Pass, which allows us to visit as many parks each day as we want, and the meal plan, which has a fine selection of restaurants and eateries to choose from for a reasonable fee.

Each park has its own unique appeal and each is beautifully landscaped with flowers everywhere. The Magic Kingdom offers all the traditional Disney characters in rides, shops, restaurants, and events (Snow White, Cinderella, the Enchanted Castle, etc.) while the Animal Kingdom focuses on Africa and the animal world (Kilimanjaro Safari, Expedition Everest, Wildlife Express Train). Hollywood Studios presents the history of movies with rides, performances, and restaurants, including Star Tours, Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular, and The Great Movie Ride. For nightlife, each resort and park has some event or performance, but for adults, Downtown Disney offers more restaurants, shops and entertainment.

Although we have been to Disney World several times and stay at least 5 days each visit, we never seem to see and do everything, and never spend enough time relaxing at the Beach and Yacht Club. We find that each time we return, there are new rides, displays, shops and restaurants to try.

Jim and Carol Ellis

NAPLES: A PARADISE ON THE GULF

Joe and I have been spending the winters in Naples, Florida, for eighteen years. We leave the first of January and return home the first week in April. While Joe was working, we vacationed in Naples and found that we liked the gulf side of Florida better than the ocean side. While looking for a place to stay, we discovered a lovely community there called Sapphire Lakes, which is eight miles from the beach. Sapphire Lakes offers many amenities, much like Hershey's Mill. It has four swimming pools, tennis courts, organized bocce, organized horseshoes games, pickleball, a number of different card games, and social events.

The beaches are beautiful, and Fifth Avenue in Naples has many shops, art galleries, and restaurants. Free concerts are held in the park every Sunday afternoon. Marco Island, which is another artsy town, is 30 minutes south of Naples. Ft. Myers is 40 minutes north of Naples and is where the Edison-Ford Estate is located. The tour of the estate is very interesting.

We love Naples as it has everything we enjoy, and it feels like home. Plus, we are running away from the cold and snow.

Theresa Carrone

SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

Having visited much of Florida, we elected to spend our winter visit time in the Sarasota/Bradenton area. It is a cultural hub on many levels as well as having wonderful close-by beaches and very comfortable walking areas. The beach waterfront on the Gulf of Mexico extends from Sarasota north all along Longboat Key and beyond to Anna Maria Island. Parking is never a problem.

The cultural offerings include the acclaimed Sarasota Opera and the Sarasota Orchestra. They truly are outstanding. Then, there is the marvelous Ringling estate with its renowned art museum as well as one with circus history and memorabilia. The Asolo Theatre, also on the grounds of the Ringling estate, is often sold out. Ringling College of Art is prominent and attracts many artists, galleries and students.

For the visitors there also is the South Florida Museum with Snooty the manatee and lots of Florida history artifacts. Bradenton is the winter training camp of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Clearwater (less than an hour away) is the training camp for the Phillies. Surely enough to keep one well occupied!

Barbara and George Colby

THE VILLAGES AT LADY LAKE: FLORIDA'S "FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN"

The Villages, AKA an adult Disney World, is more than just a retirement community. It is a retirement resort. As of this date, there are over 100,000 residents.

The Villages' main attraction is the weather, followed closely by golfing and swimming pools. In the evening what makes The Villages exclusive is their outdoor Town Squares. There are three Town Squares, surrounded by many restaurants that offer live music and dancing every night of the year. There are ethnic parades including, of course, residents' decorated golf carts, floats and food festivities. The golf carts are accessible to all functions: shopping centers, medical offices, and various houses of worship. Two large theaters offer Broadway shows, famous celebrities, impersonators and more. Many restaurant chains are included within The Villages' 100+ restaurants.

Social clubs are organized by states, sports, music, dance, ethnicity, art, games— every conceivable activity. Bowling is very popular in The Villages. The largest bowling facility has a karaoke restaurant. We think that was put there purposely. If you have a bad game, you can always participate in karaoke for a good laugh.

The Villages is also a "golf haven." With new villages, the developer builds the infrastructure, roads, utilities, recreation center golf course (9 or 18 holes), access gates, post office, and landscaping. The Arnold Palmer and Nancy Lopez (who maintains a home here) country clubs include restaurants and championship courses among the many other country clubs. Activity is the key ingredient in The Villages. Meanwhile, beautiful manicured lawns and flower beds, plus the well-kept roads, just add to your stay.

In this section of Florida, you are in the heart of "horse country," from Ocala to Orlando. Visiting families can also travel to Orlando's Disney World and Homasassa (a combination zoo and aquarium).

In the past, we traveled to our home three times during the year – of course, January through March, June to July 4th, and the month of October. If you are interested in visiting The Villages, we do have a copy of the *Recreation News*, listing all of the activities just for the current week.

We could go on and on with all of the activities and amenities offered at The Villages. However, at the present time, we have been unable to find a home to rent for the months of February and March. Maybe we should have kept quiet and not told too many people about it – our loss.

Marge and John Brolly

ST. AUGUSTINE: OUR OLDEST CITY

Almost everyone knows there's a lot of history in our nation's oldest city, first discovered in 1513 by Ponce de Leon, but it also has many charms. I first visited it for a few days in 1981 with a fellow banker who had retired there. Before the three days were up, my husband and I had fallen in love with this charming city, had bought a lot, and had ordered a home to be built. Following are some of the reasons why.

The Castillo de San Marcos, built in 1695, is the oldest fort in the continental U.S. and is one of St. Augustine's most popular landmarks. The Colonial Quarter sports costumed blacksmiths, weavers and many artisans who demonstrate early Spanish lifestyles.

Flagler College, located downtown, with its ornate structures, was originally the Henry Flagler Hotel, with windows by Tiffany, a clock by Thomas Edison, and magnificent crystal chandeliers. Brief tours of this beautiful building are offered daily. There are also many city tours by horse carriage or open motored vehicles. Downtown, bookstores, shops and art galleries invite tourists to browse and shop. City fathers control prices and the quality of their offerings. Also downtown is the Nobre de Dios, a great cross 208 feet high which towers over the marshes where the first landing was made and is a local landmark. For nightlife, the city attracts talented musicians. Jimmy Buffet was among the many musicians to play and entertain in the local nightspots.

St. George Street, named by the English when they captured the city, is a long narrow street overflowing with little shops on both sides which offer jewelry, shirts, pottery and all sorts of goodies. It also offers local pubs and eating places. The Oldest Schoolhouse, built 200 years ago, features handmade nails, pegs, books, and although closed to preserve it, one can appreciate its offering education to early inhabitants. At the beginning of the street is the Catholic cathedral. It goes back centuries, was built by the Spaniards who brought Christianity to St. Augustine, was rebuilt several times, and today is kept fresh and lovely. There are free tours of the nave and altar areas. Across the street is the Episcopal church, which is 200 years old, and has the most beautiful rosewood pews and altars and offers tours on certain days.

The Lightener Museum is most worthwhile for it displays many artifacts with a whole floor exhibiting the most exquisite cut crystal that has the ladies admiring it a bit enviously. And not to miss is the famous lighthouse (and museum) built to guide ships into the harbor and bay areas. Take a tour, or if brave enough, climb the 219 steps to the top that offers a breathtaking view of the city, which I did when family or friends visited us. A short ferry ride takes folks to Ft. Mantanzas National Museum located on 300 acres of park land, home to sea turtles, osprey, pelicans, and, oh yes, snakes, too.

Spanish influence is everywhere: street names, architecture, and the names of the many restaurants. Tourists can tour the San Sebastian Winery's 18,000 sq. feet, which had been one of Henry Flagler's East Coast Railway buildings – free wine sampling is offered and bottles or cases may also be bought. This wine is now offered in some upscale stores.

There is the famous Fountain of Youth landmark which honors Ponce de Leon's search for eternal youth – tourist trap, I think. The Zoological Park, a.k.a. alligator farm, has many native and rare birds and, of course, alligators by the hundreds. Visitors are fascinated by them, but I think they are good for purses, shoes, belts, wallets, period. They are outlawed for those purposes though. Some restaurants offer alligator tail on their menus – yuk.

And no visit to St. Augustine is complete without viewing the Bridge of Lions which spans the Mantanzas River. Located near the bay, it offers a view of the Castillo. One can sit and see many sailboats and the Marina. Residents often come just to enjoy that area as it is so restful.

All in all, St. Augustine is a wondrous and delightful city to visit or, if one is as lucky as I was, to live within its city limits. Tourists come 365 days a year to visit and to view and admire our nation's oldest city - St. Augustine, Florida.

Dorrie Ritchie

From The Editors

We are very pleased with the increasing amount of input from our neighbors such as that appearing in this issue. We encourage everyone to suggest topics and submit copy. Try it! You will find it is fun to see your thoughts and ideas on paper, and it keeps the newsletter alive and interesting.

Suggestions and items can be delivered to us at 696, or e-mailed to us at BGColby@comcast.net.

The Inverness "I" Staff

Co - Editors Barbara & George Colby
Associate Editors Carol & Jim Ellis
Artwork Jim Ellis

Village Council Members

President Boyd Mackleer
Vice President Wilbur Amand
Secretary Barbara Atmore
Treasurer Tom Delaney
At Large Janet Emanuel

Managing Agent Jeff Bevan

A Bit Of Humor

For Sale By Owner

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica
45 volumes, Excellent condition
\$200 or best offer
No longer needed; got married
Wife knows everything.

Courtesy of Judy Klanderman

Social Committee Plans

The Inverness Social Committee has two exciting events planned at the Community Center this fall; the Chili Supper and the Holiday Gala.

The Chili Supper, on October 15th, will feature several beef chilis, chicken chilis, toppings, cornbread and crusty bread, salad, beverages, and dessert.

The Holiday Gala, on December 12th, will be a catered affair with appetizers, entrée, salad, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee and beverages.

Carol Ellis

Editor's note: These events are a great opportunity for a low cost dinner out with your very interesting neighbors. We particularly encourage newcomers and those who have not attended previously, to join in all this fun. GC.

New Resident Info

Helen O'Grady (#753)
Tel: (484) 999-8151

HOGrady@comcast.net

