
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF DOYLESTOWN



February 2014

Mother Nature has certainly disrupted our normal sequence of committee meetings and social events, however, the VIA Board met on schedule at the end of January. I'd like to highlight the Welfare Committee report to the board. Chair Marge Martin reported the committee's winter giving program provided \$100 K-mart vouchers to more than 275 families referred by school nurses. The vouchers were used to purchase children's clothing and other necessary items at post holiday sale prices.

President Elect Linda McIlhinney and I met recently with Bill Shoffler, Community Development Officer of United Way of Bucks County, to discuss how we can collaborate on projects in the future. Bill provided copies of their Annual Report to the Community. In an article titled "Stone Soup" the Village Improvement Association was recognized for providing the venue and volunteers to assist in packing meals that were donated to local food pantries.

Committee chairs and board members attended a second Lunch & Learn session at the JLMH auditorium, moderated by Barbara Lyons, winner of the 2013 VIA Women In Business Leadership Award. Barbara reminded us that it is a privilege to be a member an organization whose members work hard to improve the lives of others. Membership comes with certain responsibilities. One way to meet the responsibility is to give time to our largest annual fundraiser, the Bucks County Designer House. Volunteers are needed to make follow up phone calls to local businesses that have been sent advertising packets for the Designer House guidebook, and to contact seminar presenters to set dates and times for presentations. These activities can be done from home. If you want to help, please contact Joyce Hanson at 215.262.2094 or joycehanson@verizon.net

It's always a difficult decision to cancel a member meeting because of weather conditions as we did in January and again this month. I sincerely hope the sun will shine brightly on the day of our next meeting, March 4th. I'm sure you do too!

Marianne Chabot

President

March 4, 2014 – 12:00PM
James Lorah Memorial Auditorium



“Songs, Stories & Traditions”

Presenter Gerry Timlin
Program Coordinator Mary Ellen Stanton

Tea Servers Jeanne Sandusky
Karen Young
Meditation TBD
Hospitality Captains Lillian O’Connor
Maureen Chadwick

Program Preview

Linda K. McIlbinney

St. Patrick's Day fun starts early this year for the VIA. Join us for our March program where we'll enjoy a return visit from Gerry Timlin, a great favorite in the USA and Canada. Born in Ireland, Gerry moved to the states in the early seventies where he has been entertaining audiences with his rich baritone vocals, instrumental talent and delightful storytelling. Don't miss this wonderful program as we look toward spring!

SHUTTLE

Shuttle service from the County parking garage, Broad Street entrance, Level 2 to the JLMH will be available from 11:30 to 12:00 on March 4th. After the membership meeting, the driver will make **ONE** trip from the JLMH to the parking garage.



The Bylaws Corner

Georgia Ford

Our winter weather is playing havoc in so many ways, and the Bylaws Committee has not escaped its wrath. We promised to present the Anti-Bullying statement for your vote at the January meeting, then the February meeting. However, Mother Nature had a different idea and those two meetings had to be cancelled. We will try again at the March meeting.

Gourmet Committee – Cooking Class

Marie Johnston

You are invited to join us at Vandegrifts in New Britain for a cooking class with wine pairing on Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. This unique culinary experience will feature cooking instruction by Chef Andy with wine pairing by Mike Conti. Cost is \$55/person. Seating is limited. To reserve your spot contact Marie at mjohnston1@gmail.com. Non VIA members welcome.

Literature Committee

Marilyn Mele

This month, the Book Discussion Group will be reading "Defending Jacob" by William Landay. We will meet on Friday, February 28th at 2 p.m. at the Forest Ridge clubhouse, 300 Beech Rd, Warrington (off of Bristol Road). For more information or directions call Marilyn at 215.343.6063.

Theater Committee

Janet Punzak

This spring, we are attending the Sunday matinee of a British comedy, "Lettice and Lovage," on March 9th - 2:00 at the Allen's Lane Theater (which is cabaret style).

June -"Fiddler on the Roof," presented by the PA Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University. Call 215.230.8873 or e-mail janetpunzak@gmail.com if interested.

Newsletter Staff:

Marie Johnston, Editor Joy Anderson
Phyllis Morris Karen Simon
Barb Thompson Betty Trossett

Membership Committee

Lee Scheeler

Attention all members, especially new members trying to find your niche with the VIA? President Elect, Linda McIlhinney, will be available before our monthly membership meetings at 11:30 a.m. in the dining room of the James-Lorah Memorial Home. We invite you to stop in to see Linda as well as some of our committee chairmen and learn about the many opportunities on becoming an active VIA member. Questions call me at 215.348.4466.

Fundraising Committee

Sharon Orr

A Mural Arts Tour of center city Philadelphia has been planned for April 10th. We will take the 8:52 a.m. train and will arrive early enough to get some lunch before the tour starts (12:00 p.m.). Please make your reservations soon, as the trolley is filling up fast. Don't miss this wonderful day.

This spring, the fundraising committee is hoping to have an online vacation home raffle to benefit the VIA. We are looking for anyone willing to donate a week at a vacation home or timeshare to help with this project. For questions or further information, please contact Corey Schroeder.

The Fundraising Committee is starting to plan the events for the 120th Anniversary of the VIA in 2015 and needs your help. You don't have to be a member of the committee to help on these projects. This is a great opportunity for our newer members to become involved and to meet other members of the VIA organization. Please call Sharon Orr if you are interested in helping.

Weather Alert

In the event of inclement weather, membership meetings will be cancelled if Central Bucks School District closes. You can also call the VIA office at 215.345.2347.

James-Lorah Memorial Home

Phyllis Morris

The JLMH Committee is doing its best to keep watch over our historic house. It has been a challenge due to our meetings being cancelled because of extreme winter weather.

After a great event and house tour in December, we are looking forward to our **spring fundraiser** at the **Town and Country Playhouse**. Please mark your calendar for an evening of food, drink, raffles and lots of laughter on **Wednesday, April 16th**. The musical will be **The Scarlett Pimpernel** and is sure to be entertaining. Look for more details in the March Newsletter.

Veterans Committee

Jan Cope

Given the two-month delay in meetings, we presented the VIA's donations to this year's recipients at their offices. Mr. Dan Fraley, Director of Veterans Affairs for Bucks County, received \$450 for the Bucks County Veterans Van program. Mrs. Sarah Blank, President of the Horsham Air Guard Station's Family Readiness/Key Volunteers Group, received \$1,200 in gift cards for groceries and gas. Watch for pictures and news releases. We will continue to support the base's food pantry during the coming months, and looking forward to having Mr. Fraley as our speaker for the 2014 Petite Luncheon. The Veterans Committee also recently started a Get Well card program for veterans spending time at Doylestown Hospital. We'd like to thank the Pastoral Care volunteers, who will distribute cards for us so that we can avoid privacy issues. Finally, starting to think spring: we will march in the Memorial Day Parade, hostess at the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens, and continue to support other veterans programs. Our committee is open for new members. If you would like to join us, please contact Jan Cope at janbcope@verizon.net.



\$20 Advance Sale- Tour Tickets
Contact: Janet Punzak at 215.230.8873

Empty House Party
Sunday, February 23rd, 2 - 5 p.m.
Tickets on sale now- Visit the website

SAVE THE DATE:
Designer House Fashion Shows at Doylestown Country Club
Thursday, May 8th: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday, May 9th: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

HELP WANTED
Designer House brochure mailing
Wednesday, February 26th Conf Room J
Start time is 9:00 a.m.

2014 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

Joyce Hanson

Undeterred by recent weather, the Committee is busy making plans for our 39th Designer House at Serendipity Farm. Check the newsletter for information on the Empty House Party on February 23rd.

Please respond generously with your time and sign up to be a hostess during May. This large property will need many volunteers so recruit some friends and commit to several shifts.

We are happy to have our first ever Honorary Chairmen – Jack & Carol McCaughan who have made a very generous contribution to the Designer House. We are looking forward to our elegant Gala on April 26th with entertainment by **Chatterband**. All VIA members are invited to the gala, so if you do not receive an invitation in early March but would like to attend, please contact me at joyce.hanson@verizon.net or 215.348.5835.

Thanks to all our hard working DH Committee members for your dedication. Your efforts help us meet our pledge to the hospital and support VIA committees that count on us for the funds needed to do their good work in the community.

EMPTY HOUSE PARTY **Sunday, February 23rd, 2 – 5 p.m. at** **SERENDIPITY FARM**

In just 11 days we will have our first event introducing the public to our 2014 Designer House. We still need donations of wine and spirits, silent auction items and YOU! Get your reservations into the VIA office, \$25 pp, \$30 at the door. Bring family and friends to a great THINK SPRING party which includes food, drink, raffles, silent auction, beer and wine tasting and more! Donations may be left in the VIA office.



The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) is active in fighting for the rights of Hospitals in both the State and the Federal governments. They are involved in developing a constitutional amendment protecting not-for-profit hospital status and strengthening the tax position for hospitals. HAP is also working to keep the government out of determining how hospitals staff, especially regarding nurse to patient ratio. The Delaware Valley Healthcare Council (DVHC) is the HAP representative for Southeast PA. since this region has so many hospitals and such a large population there is a need for advocacy directly from this area to the state as well as local and federal governments. They (DVHC) provide help with disaster preparedness, media communications and other areas of education and member relations.

There remains a challenge for door to drug (tPA) time in the ER for stroke patients. The goal is 60 minutes but we are at 63.2 minutes. The stroke Team is trying to increase the number of stroke alerts by EMS, much as they alert us for heart attacks, which should help to decrease the time to tPA. The ER has separated into two pods each hosting a physician located within the pod. This should decrease the time to be seen by a physician and also lessen the time to a decision regarding the administration of tPA.

Our five star orthopedic program has developed the Doylestown Accelerated Surgical Healing Program (DASH). This allows qualified total joint replacement patients to be discharged to home within one to two days. It has also decreased the transfusion rate and the use of foley catheters. There have been no readmissions from this group of patients.

The next time you have a mammogram you will be notified as to the density of your breast tissue. This is a new Pennsylvania law and Doylestown Hospital is working to educate patients in regard to that information. You should not be alarmed when you get that notice but understand that breast density can make it difficult to find breast cancer in its earliest stages. Recent data shows that DH finds breast cancer in early stages more than other centers. With our new breast surgeon, Donna Angiotti, MD joining our staff in January we are ready to expand our breast cancer program.

Financial results show that December like November was a strong month. Net patient revenue was 1% above budget and 8% above December of 2012. Inpatient discharges are 5.7% below budget but observation cases offset that decline at 20.6% above budget. Investment income, due to capital gains is \$1.2M above budget. All bond covenants are being met.

The Hospital Board approved naming opportunities for the new 3-Tesla (3T) MRI suite. You should be very proud of this new facility as we are the only facility on the East Coast to have this advanced technology. The pictures are of extremely high quality and will make diagnosis that much easier. 3T does not use radiation and has no long term harmful effects. If you would like to contribute to the fund raising campaign for the MRI or would like to have your name added to an area, see Linda Felt (Plank).

Gilda's Club has merged with the Cancer Support Community of Philadelphia and the satellite at DH will adopt that new name. Both organizations support the same mission and the satellite at DH will continue to offer comprehensive cancer services in one convenient location.

Carolyn Della-Rodolfa
Vice President, Health Services

February

18	JLMH Committee	Conf Room B	10:00 AM
23	BCDH&G Empty House Party		2 – 5:00 PM
25	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	8:30 AM
25	Bylaws Meeting	Conf Room K	10:30 AM

March

4	Membership Meeting	JLMA	12:00 PM
5	Marketing Meeting	Conf Room L	10:00 AM
11	Designer House Meeting	JLMA	10:00 AM
18	JLMH Committee	JLMH	10:00 AM
25	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	8:30 AM
25	Bylaws Meeting	Conf Room K	10:30 AM

Please refer to our website for additional events!
WWW.VIA-DOYLESTOWN.ORG