The Hidden Ridge GEM

April 2014



The President's Message



Dear Fellow Hidden Ridgers,

Spring has arrived and not a moment too

soon for our Jewel of the Catskills. This past winter, from all reports received, was brutal and it took its toll on our beautiful community – major pot holes, leaks from ice damming as well as frozen water pipes. Our full time residents as well as those who visited for a weekend or two were met with several feet of accumulated snow and bitter temperatures. I saw on the security cameras pictures of the massive amount of snow that kept building up with nowhere to be plowed. I have to give all of you credit for braving the elements. Vice President Lenny Kirschenbaum, Jerry Bassik as well as our safety crew deserve a special thank you for holding down the fort and attending to any and all challenges that the community faced during this harsh winter.

Our maintenance crew has reported back to work and is restoring Hidden Ridge to its natural beauty. They are busily cleaning up broken branches and leaves, repairing and filling pot holes, replacing sinking drains and reseeding lawns. Our roofer is busily tending to those roofs with leaks. Please be patient and cooperate with the contractors and our maintenance staff.

Our pool service has been notified to start work on getting our pool ready. They have assured me that they will make every effort to open the pool for the Memorial Day weekend. Again we must be patient.

The Board members have been planning for the upcoming summer season. We have communicated with each other by email and by phone in order to conduct business. We have been working on planning social events as well as a schedule of meetings.

There has been a lot of buzz regarding the casino gambling resolution that was passed last November. Articles are appearing regularly in the newspapers. Check out the following site for updates with links to several articles - https://www.Facebook.com.2CasinosinSullivanCounty.

It appears that our neighbor on Friedman Road will be opening the petting zoo and family fun park this summer. We will be monitoring to make sure that the zoo does not interfere with our community.

On a personal note, I look forward to my return to Hidden Ridge in mid-May, to seeing all of you and to enjoying the upcoming summer season. Bonnie

From the Editor

Dear Fellow Hidden Ridgers,



When I was working, I had time for everything!

In actuality, every activity was carefully planned around getting to work, working, getting home from work, parking the car, taking care of paperwork, and planning the yawning evenings with friends, family and fun. I would dream about retirement and the leisurely ways I would have to spend my days and nights. There would be time for all of my favorite things to do.

Issue 14-01

Well, you guessed it! We are coming up to my 11th anniversary of my retirement and I don't have time for half the things I want to do. I am busier than ever. Of course, I have only myself to blame for that; but, it doesn't help or change the reality.

So, what can I do? I am not sure. Three times a year, from now on, I will have three newsletter deadlines at the same time. I will continue to write a show for charity which I will direct at the end of March in my Florida clubhouse. And that, too, will coincide with one of the months of three deadlines! I also attend as many board meetings as I can so that I can bring light to my readers who cannot do so. Then, there are the meetings outside our community for the Volunteer COP Media Unit I now head and the events that have to be published and photographed. And, God willing, I will continue to have holiday celebrations in our home that will also interfere with my deadlines. What is a girl to do?????

I feel guilty every morning if I don't get up and immediately start writing, editing, or keeping the books for the two newsletters that I have vendors to care about. I can't remember the last time I went swimming or took a leisurely ride to visit some sightseeing experience. And that's not all. We have subscriptions to so many theater events that we don't have time to go to a movie! We spend nights at home catching up on the TV shows we have recorded and want to see.

I am not really complaining. It's just that I guess I haven't got this retirement thing down right yet. It may take me another 11 years before I do. But, if that's what it takes, I am going to keep on keeping on until I get it right!

Linda

From both of us, have a Happy Passover and Joyous Easter Holiday.

2011-2012 Board of Directors

Bonnie Siegel	President	791-6056 917-969-9646
Lenny Kirschenbaum	V. Pres	794-3395
Karen Seltzer	Secretary	794-2752 917-861-6291
Chuck Greenberg	Treasurer	516-445-3845
Jerry Bassik	Director	791-4273
Jill Friedman	Director	305-213-4507
Ed Hertz	Director	791-7209 352-242-0910

Hidden Ridge H.O.A. **PO Box 976** Monticello, NY 12701

Patrol/Safety number: 845-794-8180

Hidden Ridge H.O.A. **Committee Liaisons**

Advertising Audit **Beautification** Clubhouse Cul de Sac Liaisons Entertainment Grievances GEM/Web Site **Insurance Certification Insurance Matters** Legal Liaison to Veria Long Range Planning Maintenance **Daily Pool** Safety Sales & Rentals Sanitation & Recycling Snow Removal Social

Chuck Greenberg Chuck Greenberg Chuck Greenberg Karen Seltzer/Bonnie Siegel Jill Friedman Bonnie Siegel/Karen Seltzer Bonnie Siegel/Lenny K. Bonnie Siegel/Jerry Bassik Bonnie Siegel/Jerry Bassik Bonnie Siegel/Jerry Bassik Bonnie Siegel **Bonnie Siegel** Bonnie Siegel/ Lenny K. Lenny K./Ed Hertz Jill Friedman/ Jerry Bassik Lenny Kirschenbaum Ed Hertz/Lenny K. Lenny Kirschenbaum Lenny Kirschenbaum Karen Seltzer

Upcoming Events



Next Board Meeting: Sunday, June 1, 11 AM Social Committee Meeting: **TBA** Please see the bulletin boards or website.



Want to announce something to our community? Call Linda and place an ad in the GEM. Please call (561)498-9338 until May 12; after that. 917-747-8660 or email: bonsdiva@aol.com

DEADLINE for JUNE ISSUE - May 20th

Important Reminder



President Bonnie Siegel reminds all homeowners that a current copy of your insurance certification is required to be on file with the HOA. This form should include the unit number as well as the effective dates of coverage. A copy of the Declarations page is acceptable and preferred. Handwritten details on these documents as well as premium notices are not acceptable. Send your certification forms directly to the Hidden Ridge Office, PO Box 976, Monticello, NY 12701.



Wanted: Ads to defray costs of printing the GEM, such as, business cards, etc.

Prices for ad space in newsletter:

business card

- full page \$25/issue \$125/year \$15/issue \$ 75/year 1/2 page 1/4 page \$10/issue \$ 50/year
 - \$ 5/issue \$ 25/year

Call Linda: 845-791-6056 (May-Oct.) 561-498-9338 (Oct.-May)

GEM Staff



Editor-in-Chief Senior Editor Advertising Contributing Writers: Linda Solomon **Bonnie Siegel** Jerry Bassik

Chuck Greenberg Janet Lieberman Allan Meyers Peter Morello **Robbie Schecter** Karen Seltzer **Terry Steinberg**

If you would like to contribute to the April issue or consider writing a regular byline, please notify the Editor-in-Chief Please send your information to: Linda Solomon at bonsdiva@aol.com



Oscar Pavloff

46 HR Terrace



Dining and Entertainment

Robbie's Recipes



submitted by Robbie Schecter

It's April! After a particularly brutal winter up here in NY, we are so happy to be seeing signs of spring. The mountains of snow piled up in the cul d' sacs are almost gone, tomorrow we are expecting temps in the 50's, bits of green are breaking through the soil, and this morning I saw two red breast robins in front of our house at Hidden Ridge. Yay!!

We will be celebrating Easter and Passover very soon, or maybe already, by the time you get this Gem issue, so no ham or brisket recipe. Instead I have chosen a healthy chicken dish that is great fresh, but also reheats/freezes well if you have leftovers, or choose to double the recipe.

SAVORY CHICKEN CACCIATORE

Ingredients:

4 boneless chicken breasts

1/4 tsp salt

1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

2T olive oil

1 medium onion, cut in half, then thinly sliced into halfmoons

1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips 8 oz thinly sliced mushrooms (about 3 cups)

4 cloves of garlic, minced

 $\frac{1}{2}$ C dry white wine

1 (14.5 oz) can no-salt added diced tomatoes, with juices 1/2 tsp oregano

1/8 tsp red pepper flakes, or more to taste

Directions:

1. Rinse chicken, pat dry with paper towels, and then sprinkle with the salt & pepper

2. Heat oil in large skillet, med-high heat, brown chicken on both sides; transfer to a plate

3. Reduce skillet heat to medium; add onion & bell pepper cover & cook, stirring a few times until vegetables begin to soften

4. Add mushrooms & cook uncovered stirring occasionally until mushrooms begin to brown

5. Add garlic and cook, stirring for 30 seconds; add wine & cook until reduced by half

6. Add tomatoes and their juices, oregano & red pepper flakes and simmer, covered for 10 min

7. Return chicken breasts to pan & simmer, covered until just cooked through, about 20 min

8. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt, black pepper or red pepper, to taste ENJOY!!

Interested in Lowering Your Property Taxes?

In May of 2013, 36 Hidden Ridge Homeowners filed a tax grievance with the Town of Thompson Assessor's office. 35 of them had the assessed value of their homes lowered from \$83,000 or \$86,000 to \$70,000. This led to lower property taxes for these homeowners.

Here are the steps you can take to start the process:

• Go to www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/contest/

grievproced.htm for an overview of the grievance procedures.

• Download form RP-524 at <u>www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/</u> <u>current_forms/orpts/rp524_fill_in.pdf</u>

• Download the instructions for the completion of the form – <u>www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/</u> <u>rp524ins.pdf</u> and/or <u>www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/contest/</u> <u>completegriev.htm</u>

• Complete the form and submit it prior to May 27, 2014 (tax grievance day) to the Town of Thompson Assessor

If you do not have access to a computer and would like a packet sent to you, contact Bonnie Siegel and she will send you a packet of the above mentioned forms/ instructions.

They will require some documentation as to why you feel your house has an *excessive assessment*.

Here is a list of sales for July 2012- June 2013 (excluding any foreclosure sales):

Date of Purchase /Address	Tax Map Number	Price
07/13/12 47 Hidden Ridge Terrace	e 5.A-1-42	\$62,500
10/23/12 157 Hidden Ridge Drive	5.A-2-21	\$77,500
10/24/12 44 Hidden Ridge Drive	5.A-1-32	\$42,500
11/01/12 69 Hidden Ridge Drive	5.A-1-20	\$30,000
02/05/13 203 Hidden Ridge Drive	5.A-2-65	\$36,000
02/20/13 210 Hidden Ridge Drive	5.A-2-74	\$30,000
02/27/13 35 Hidden Ridge Drive	5.A-1-10	\$41,000
05/03/13 51 Hidden Ridge Terrac	e 5.A-1-44	\$45,000
06/20/13 41 Hidden Ridge Drive	5.A-1-13	\$42,000
06/27/13 20 Hidden Ridge Terrac	e 5.A-1-64	\$40,000

*It is important that you include all of the above listed sales as a few may be deemed invalid by the assessor's office for one reason or another (short sale, distressed sale etc).

Please note: Some residents have reported that they have already filed their grievances and have received an offer by the assessor's office that if they sign a stipulation, the assessed value of their unit would be reduced to \$70,000 and they would not have to go through the process on May 27, 2014. When the tax assessor was asked if residents stood a better chance if they did not agree to the stipulation and waited to see what the Assessment Review Panel offers, his comment was that you would be taking a gamble. Need assistance? Call Bonnie - it's a 5 minute preparation.

Remember the deadline for filing is PRIOR to May 27, 2014.

Cul-de-Sac Liaisons

<u>Cul-de-Sac</u>	Numbers	Liaison
Azaleas	15-23D	Karen Seltzer
Birch	29-43D	Helen Klein
Camellias	59-73D	Betty Fuchs
Daffodils	89-103D	Fran Zatz
Elms	107-125D	Julia Glaz
Firs	149-171D	Lenny Kirschenbaun
Gardenias	173-187D	Jerry Bassik
Hemlocks	193-205D	Lenny Keusch
Iris	196-214D	Harriet Kopelman
Juniper	126-148D	Jeff Lynn
Kerrias	74-96D	Rhoda Hertz
Laurels	44-58D	Ellen Burzichelli
Magnolias	29-43T	Sheila Cole
Narcissus	45-58T	Joe Gluck
Oaks	28-46T	Jill Friedman
Petunias	6-26T	Bonnie Siegel
Roses	8-14D	Helene Schulman

In Memoriam

With great sadness we announce the following losses to our community

Senta Bar long time resident and

David Rashkin former resident and husband of Sylvia

beloved companion of Karl Levy

Violet Greenberg mother of Chuck Greenberg

May their memories be for a blessing.

Renter's Corner



Hidden Ridge looks forward to your return thissummer!

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? submitted by LINDA SOLOMON

When I was living in a house in Queens, April used to be one of my favorite months. I had planted a small front garden of tulips, hyacinths, jonquils, and daffodils as well as peonies, roses and some greens. As my garden would come awake, so would I, as if after a sleepy, dormant winter. I loved



the smell (even in the City!) of the air fresh after an April shower and how the drops of rain rested on the leaves of the flowers and trees. I enjoyed the coolness of the air and remember still the first day in April when the weather would change and one could actually feel the coming of Spring in that little bit of heat supplied by a sun growing daily stronger. I really miss that.

Now, April is the month I still look forward to because it is still cooler than it will be in May when Florida becomes hot and steamy. That is when I start "chomping on the bit," anxious to start our journey north, back to Hidden Ridge and the cold and the annuals and perennials that would never survive a summer let alone a winter in southern Florida. One April, several years ago, oh, I would say about halfway through the years we have wintered in Florida, I had the opportunity to go North in April. Oh, how I loved it! I couldn't get enough of those gorgeous yellow heads of the daffodils and the full array of colorful tulips. I remember telling one of my traveling companions how much I had missed seeing those flowers for the past several years that we were in the hot South. One year, my friend brought me tulips for Passover and I couldn't love that flowery gift more. Well, maybe, if they were daffodils.

I remember learning to draw and color tulips and daffodils in kindergarten. I think they captured my heart back then. They remain to this day the flower I yearn for all winter. You see, the others, the real favorites, I will get to see soon as I will see all of you, up in Hidden Ridge! Linda

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

There have been several occurrences (deaths and funerals, illnesses, etc.) over the winter in which those in charge of disseminating information to the community were not notified in a timely fashion. If you are aware of something that should be disseminated to all of Hidden Ridge, and you have not seen a timely email go out, please make it your business to **notify Bonnie Siegel or Eddie Erlich** as soon as possible. Thank you.

And God Created Hidden Ridge

By Peter Morello

n the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

This is how it all began and you, I'm sure, are all familiar with the rest of the story. But are you familiar with the story behind the story? Do you know exactly what happened on the seventh day? Sure, you've been taught that God rested on day number seven. Even He got tired from all the creating he had done and that's why He made sure to set in motion the birth of Moses – that's Robert Moses to you and me. Someone had to carry on the business of building monumental projects for the benefit of mankind and God felt that the business of construction should be left to humans. God could have easily built parks, bridges and beaches if he so desired, but He knew only a less than perfect human would be able to build the Cross Bronx Expressway and look upon the finished product with pride.

As the Lord rested he began to contemplate if he had left anything out. Surely what He had set in motion would last for a long time, indeed, but perhaps there was more He could do after creating man and woman and the firmament and the abundant wildlife on earth.

God thought way into the future and what might be. He knew mankind must find their way without interference but He was there to offer guidance and God laid the foundation for all that was to come.

As He surveyed all that He had created He saw the oceans seemingly limitless in their vastness and whose tides He deftly controlled by creating the moon. He saw mighty rivers that man would eventually navigate and tame with dams. There were the forests with their millions of trees that man would utilize to build shelter and provide warmth and fire for cooking. He further saw the deep canyons and tall mountains whose nadir and zenith seemed to stretch from Hell to Heaven itself. He also was proud of the multitude of wildlife in all its variety that lived together and that man would use for food and domesticate and create bonds with as only man could. Yet, with all this beauty and variety God sensed that something was missing – something that He knew mankind would greatly appreciate and gravitate towards if only on a seasonal basis for most.

It was at about this time that God pondered the possibility of creating a special community that folks would call home and where many would form bonds that would eternally endure. Of course, God did not directly create Hidden Ridge but he did create the land and everything we take for granted and set in motion the creation of our oasis by planting the idea in the minds of the Kutsher family who eventually carried forth what God intended.

Once all of that was done, God realized that to be a successful community he must think way in advance and set in motion the creation of the various residents that in the future would inhabit our land and lend to it its specialness.

Some may agree with me that there are some folks that stand out in Hidden Ridge proving that God knew what He was doing and understood the effects that His decisions would have on us all.

God thought long and hard about what direction he wanted the community to take and decided that, at least initially, the vast majority of residents would be part timers - who at most would spend six months at Hidden Ridge. He wanted those individuals who worked hard in their lives to return to the state of their birth to enjoy what they had experienced in their youth and early adulthood and to hearken back to the fondest of memories.

God knew that man needed law and order and He influenced man to consider to create the concept of a HOA with a board of directors whose job it would be to create a template of do's and don'ts. He knew leadership was so important and set in motion the birth of Bonnie Siegel who eventually would be as ubiquitous as the green grass and who would take a genuine interest in Hidden Ridge. He knew that there would be those who would beg to differ on various matters but was aware that a common frailty would be found hiding in the shadows and not lend one self to the inevitable criticism that accompanies leadership and He understood that fortitude and the ability to take charge would be admired qualities.

God also well-understood the meaning of volunteerism and created all of the other various board members and community volunteers who have come forward to make Hidden Ridge a better place for all. He values anyone who leads by example and knew that others would follow and this would build on itself.

The Lord knew that mankind would have an insatiable desire for up-to-date information irrespective of its importance or authenticity and He pondered the possibility of creating an individual to disseminate this information. It was about this time that God laid the plans for the eventual birth of Lenny Keusch. He anticipated that there would be a need for "cul-de-sac" liaisons and the responsibilities that went along with it. He knew that Lenny would eventually be considered the unofficial mayor of Hidden Ridge and was given the ability to start a sentence midstream and to offer information heretofore considered unobtainable proving that God does indeed work in mysterious ways and some of His darkest mysteries are at Hidden Ridge. He also bestowed upon Lenny the ability to understand that he should not be offended with good-natured ribbing and that he is genuinely liked as a community booster.

In furtherance of the need for information, God thought as an interesting option he would sow the seeds for the GEM, hence the birth of Linda Solomon. God's wisdom was such that he knew mankind craved information no matter in what form it may inhabit. God perceived the need for a community to come together by the sharing of information both for its entertainment value and the sharing of personal information. That's why you're reading this now.

HOMEOWNERS!

If you are planning to rent your unit for any time during 2014, please contact **Bonnie Siegel** since she is trying to compile a comprehensive list of units for rent so that he can share the information with potential renters. **siegelmath@aol.com 917-969-9646**

Rentals at Hidden Ridge - Updated Rules

The rental rules were revised in the summer of 2010. We are printing them again to remind those homeowners who are renting their units this year.

Rental Rules:

1. The homes in our community are to be used for residential purposes only. The Board defines "residential purposes" as including the following:

A home may be deemed to be used for "residential purposes" if said home, or a portion of said home, is leased to one (1) individual or a group of individuals for any period of time up to a maximum of twelve (12) months over a period of eighteen (18) months. The leasing of a home, or portion of a home, for any portion of a given month during the twelve (12) month period referenced herein, shall be deemed leasing for an entire month for the purposes of calculating the aforesaid eighteen (18) month period. All leases will be for one year and non- renewable.

- 2. The rental fee for a twelve (12) month period will be \$1200.
- 3. The rental fee for a summer rental (May October) will be \$350.
- 4. Homeowners who rent their units are to provide to the Homeowners Association a copy of the lease along with the appropriate fees. **The lease and the fee are to be sent to the office at least 30 days prior to the occupancy of the tenants.** A late fee of \$250 will be assessed to the owner if the rental fee is not paid two weeks prior to occupancy. The homeowner is to complete and submit the 2011 rental form along with the lease and appropriate fee.
- 5. In order for the tenant to be able to use the facilities and participate in any HOA activities, all maintenance fees must be current.
- 6. Unit owners are required to hand the renter the keys to the unit and mailbox as well as the *A-Z Booklet and Clubhouse Center Rules*.
- 7. Units are rented "as is". It is the owner's obligation, not the Homeowners Association to repair and maintain the inside of the unit.

Rental Forms:

Rental forms can be obtained from Nicole Ziegler at the office, 845-794-7173, ext. 18. If you have any questions regarding rentals, contact Bonnie Siegel 917-969-9646.

DOG REGISTRATION

At the 2012 Annual Meeting the following rules concerning dogs were accepted by the membership. All residents (owners and renters) are to adhere to the following:



• Homeowners and renters) are to

register their dogs (including service dogs) with the homeowners association and provide proof of current rabies vaccination. Please send this information to the office.

• All dogs residing in Hidden Ridge for a period of 30 consecutive days must also be registered and licensed in the Town of Thompson. Proof of this license must be presented to the homeowners association. All homeowners shall provide proof the dog is licensed in the jurisdiction in which the dog's primary residence is maintained, if the dog does not reside for a period of 30 consecutive days in Hidden Ridge.

• Dog owners are responsible for abiding by the regulations set forth by the Town of Thompson which includes picking up after their dog, walking dogs on leashes, avoiding excessive barking, etc.

• There is a limit of 2 dogs per unit. If you have more than two dogs you MAY NOT replace the extra dog(s) as you lose them.

• All pet owners will be receiving a personal reminder via regular mail to take care of this matter.

If you need a copy of the Town of Thompson regulations, or if you have any questions, please contact: Bonnie Siegel 917-969-9646 siegelmath@aol.com

MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORMS

ALL requests for exterior maintenance must be written on Maintenance Service Request Forms. <u>Use one form</u> <u>per request.</u> Copies may be picked up in the **pocket envelope** on the bulletin board. (All requests should be placed in the **maintenance mailbox** on the right side of the main bulletin board.



IF THE HOA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORK, USE THE REQUEST FORMS. IF THE WORK IS FOR YOU PERSONALLY, PLEASE AR-RANGE WITH THE WORKER(S) TO DO THE WORK <u>AFTER</u> THEIR HIDDEN RIDGE WORK DAY. THANK YOU!

If you have any questions regarding maintenance, please contact Lenny Kirschenbaum or Bonnie Siegel. Enclosed is a copy for your convenience. Thank you

For Your Information





Super Foods to Boost Your Exercise Program

by Terry Steinberg

Hopefully, we have survived one of our coldest winters and will be back to warm spring and summer weather at our summer home, Hidden Ridge. With our return, we must recommit yourselves to a daily exercise program of your choice (walking, jogging, yoga, Pilates stretch, dance, sports, etc.) in order to work towards optimal health and wellness. Below are 5 everyday super foods which you should add to your diet in order to boost physical performance.

Remember, you alone, must be responsible to get and keep moving.

1. <u>Brown rice</u> - Its carbs give you energy, while the fiber keeps you full as you do your daily workout.

2. <u>Pineapple</u> - Chow down this fruit after you exercise. It's loaded with vitamins and biomelain, which acts like a natural anti-inflammatory which can help tired muscles.

3. <u>Greek yogurt</u> - Eat it often. The calcium keeps bones strong to help ward off osteopenia and helps in promoting good bone density.

4. <u>Peanut butter or sunflower seed butter or almond butter</u> - A tablespoon, which is high in muscle fueling protein and healthy fats for sustained energy, is a delicious treat. Spread it on a piece of whole grain toast or on sliced apples.

5. <u>Berries</u> - Snack on them anytime, fresh or frozen; their antioxidants can work to promote a healthy heart and might even help to stave off any muscle soreness. Here's to your health and hope to see you all soon!!

Social Committee



submitted by Karen Seltzer

While there is not too much to report right now, the Social Committee did attend some events to screen entertainment for our Saturday night soirees as well as planning for events of interest to all of our Hidden Ridge family.

We would like you to hold the date of June 22nd for our Welcome Back Brunch. Wishing all of our snowbirds a safe trip back to Hidden Ridge. I look forward to seeing you all there! The Treasurer's Report



submitted by Chuck Greenberg

Bank Balances:	Checking:	\$120,607
	Money Market:	60,014
	Reserve:	150,000
	Total Cash Funds:	<u>\$330,621</u>

We have had an extremely hard winter and our expenses were unusually high. We are still covering all of our expenses and have maintained our reserves. Our current expenses are app. \$146,000 over last year, the major expenses are shown below:

	Budget For			Difference
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Y/E April</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Over</u>
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Mar-13</u>	Last Year
General				
Expense	65515	45000	35171	30344
Octagon				
Windows	30786	20000	5250	25536
Roofs	63666	30000	11104	52562
Retaining				
Walls	11822	10000	0	11822
Payroll				
Including				
Taxes	147156	146000	128312	18844
Paving	12000		11475	525
Totals	330945	251000	191312	139633

HIDDEN RIDGE sends a big USA cheer to our own **Eddie Erlich**, who has been approved as a permanent American resident.



GOING GREEN

I have found some very interesting helpful hints online., thanks to a friend. I will be sharing them with all of you in the next few issues of the GEM. Here are three - I hope they are helpful to you. Linda





The simplest way to slice a bunch of cherry tomatoes is to sandwich them between two plastic lids and run a long knife through all of them at once!



Use a Post-It note when drilling to catch the dust.



Flip a toaster on its side to make grilled cheese sandwiches.

Hidden Ridge Directory

Are you a new homeowner/renter? Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number? Have you changed your email address? Did we miss your birthday/anniversary? Do you want to be published in the community directory?

If the answer to any of these questions is **YES**, complete the form on the back page and submit it to our office. New Directories will be distributed in July 2014.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS





To all our friends and neighbors in Hidden Ridge we offer our sincere good wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful Holiday.

> Helen Badain Jerry Bassik Alice & Jerry Chiappetta Blossom Cohen & Jen Mitgang Michael & Eleanor Dovdavanv Bea & Lou Freedlander Thelma Friedenthal Jill & Marvin Friedman Robert Gannon *Charney & Chuck Greenberg* Mvra & Joe Gluck Ed & Rhoda Hertz Mindv & Fred Hirsh Fran Katz Helen & Sol Klein Milton & Harriet Kopelman Brian Kudler & Eddie Erlich Kudler Janet Lieberman & David Muirhead Marlene & Howard Marcus Mel Marder Peter Morello & Cruz Guardiola Gloria & Arnold Plotzky Phyllis Rubin & Family Florence & Jack Sachs Aron & Pennie Schatten Rachel & Sachar Schatten Malka Rebecca & Joe Schatten Watson Robbie & Stan Schecter & Family Helene Schulman Karen Seltzer *Esther & Sv Seltzer* Allan & Roberta Shapiro Bonnie Siegel & Linda Solomon Sylvia & Donald Singer Rose Storch Joyce & Herb Wetter

ALLAN'S ALLEY

submitted by Allan Meyers



The Candy Stores

As we await the second coming of the Polar Vortex I am struck with a weird nostalgia. I am thinking about the time that I actually liked the snow. Sled riding on my Flexible Flyer, building forts and having snow ball fights.

On December 26, 1948 it snowed and snowed, Central Park recorded 28 inches of snow but Brooklyn had drifts of over 4 feet. My brother Marvin, who was 7 years older than I, suggested that we go to Klemptner's candy store, which was located on Kings Highway and West 5th Street, three blocks away.

Before the war Klemptner's candy store/ luncheonette had a Juke Box in the back where all the teenagers danced (a la the Fonz and *Happy Days*). But it became illegal unless the store owner had a Cabaret License.

Normally we would go there almost every day to get a newspaper or something to eat. So *Ole Man Klemptner* wasn't that surprised when we showed up during a blizzard. It had taken us over an hour to get there and we were covered with lots of snow. And he became furious at us when we asked for a quart of ice-cream to take out. In those days ice-cream was not pre-packaged and he would have had to go into the freezer to scoop it out. He yelled and cursed at us and told us never to come back to his store.

In those days there was a candy store on every block in Brooklyn. So from that time on, my friends and I only went to Mandel's on Kings Highway and West 2^{nd} Street.

One very hot July day, after we had played stickball, we went to Mandel's for a soda. During the war pretzels were two for a penny and candy bars were a nickel apiece. Mr. Mandel always yelled at us and called us *wisenheimers* because we always corrected his prices. He sold pretzels 3 for 2 cents or 5 for a nickel, candy bars 3 for 25 cents or 7 cents each. Black and white ice-cream soda went for 15 cents. We would order a chocolate soda for a nickel and an ice-cream cone for a nickel and then we'd put it together. Mr. Mandel would yell that it was against the law for us to do that.

But that day we only had 12 cents among the four of us, so we had to be careful what we bought. Small chocolate sodas had risen from 3 cents to 5 cents and a chocolate soda was now 7 cents and an egg cream was well beyond our means.. So we asked him how much did a 2 cent plain cost? He yelled at us and Mrs. Mandel came after us with a broom.

Three or four generations have passed since that day and I have never been back to either candy store. The only thing that still bothers me is that I still do not know how much a 2 cent plain costs.

BRRRR IT's COLD

submitted by Allan Meyers

ALLAN'S ALLEY II (TOO)

If you do not like the weather here in New York during the winter, just wait until the next day. This are what you Floridians missed.

In just one week we had a temperature of 70 degrees. The next day it was 55 degrees and everyone felt cold. Then came the North-Easter. Snow, then an ice storm, then fog. The temperature dropped. All children and senior citizens were told not to go outside. The wind chill in Monticello was minus 37 degrees with 10 inches of snow and ice on the ground. Staten Island only had a wind chill of minus 14 degrees

The next day Adrienne and I had doctor's appointments. The walk to our driveway is not far, and we were able to find a parking place about a half a block away. The temperature was 14 degrees and surprisingly it seemed warm. At 20 degrees we removed our scarves and gloves. At 24 degrees we opened our jackets. I guess everything is relative.

Speaking of relatives, Bonnie wrote that everyone at Hidden Ridge is family. It's true. Sibling rivalry permeates throughout the Terrace and Drive.

We really are close at H.R. Last winter after Hurricane Sandy hit Staten Island, we received calls from Rhoda & Ed Hertz, Sylvan & Sandra Gelber and Jill and Marvin Friedman. We were lucky in that we had no lights for only one day and only lost one tree. (The year before, we had lost our roof during Hurricane Elaine.) My son Glenn had no electricity or heat at his apartment and his office for almost two weeks. So he went to his house in Hidden Ridge for refuge, only to discover that there was no electricity on the Terrace.

This year, when the first storm hit, we received calls from Sylvan and Jill. We want to thank them and everyone who thought enough to worry about us. Bonnie is right, we are family.



(continued from page 6)

Along with the concept of disseminating information, He saw the need for someone to spread good cheer when needed and Eddie Ehrlich came to being. God did indeed create a person with an effervescent personality who was bestowed with a genuine concern for others and a bawdy sense of humor second to none. He's even great at decorating.

As God surveyed the landscape He had created He became aware that man craved entertainment of some sorts to keep him occupied. He foresaw the eventual decline of the Catskills as folks knew it and thought people would need a substitute of some sorts. Hence, He influenced the idea of a clubhouse where his believers could congregate and form friendships and be entertained in a format that He knew would promote togetherness.

In consideration of mankind's social needs, God knew that people needed to engage in some sort of talk if only to entertain themselves or perhaps for its perceived informational content. He knew that there would be a pool and thought it would be a great idea if He could set in motion the creation of those folks who would surround its perimeter and engage in chit chat and, as some would say, gossip. It was then that God set in motion the creation of the yenta and all their inevitable bending of facts and figures. Of course, being merciful was always God's forte and He made sure that a yenta would be a person of any background and the only necessary requirement was a desire to hear ones own voice above everyone else's, like at an Italian wedding. It was then and there that God created – well, if this pertains to you, you know who you are.

Along with His many other decisions God felt the need to call several well-loved individuals home over the years. Many if not all of these folks loved Hidden Ridge and did their part to make our community better making our understanding of His decision all the more difficult. Nonetheless, the impact of their presence on our community has made a lasting impression on many of us.

As I surveyed the landscape that Hidden Ridge is I wondered why God didn't allow our community to control the waters that runneth beneath the terra firma. I speculated that God may have made a mistake here but quickly corrected myself realizing that God became God by being perfect, but who knows what he was thinking when he made that decision.

As we proceed from this point forward, it's anyone's guess as to what God has in store for us now and we as mortals can only speculate on the future. But I for one believe that the best is yet to come knowing that God has tried His best to make me belong to the camp of the glass being half full.

By now you may be wondering how I came to know all of this information. No, it wasn't Lenny but it was God himself who spoke to me about this one night while I was asleep. There may be those of you who think this was a mere dream and not real. If so, consider that God has given us the ability to dream and if you believe He is influential in our lives then the above is certainly possible and indeed, probable.

You now have the whole story as to the creation of Hidden Ridge and how various people in the community came to be- not by happenstance - but by design. However, one interesting fact that recently came to my attention after checking various historical documents at the Sullivan County Historical Society was the archeological find made as our community was being built. Workman unearthed a black onyx box that had an inscription on its front that was written in Latin. This box was given to the Department of Archeology at Columbia University where it was examined by a well-known professor. After much inspection and carbon dating, it was determined that the box dated from the fifth century B.C. and the inscription read - "Cannolis" - proving much to my personal pride that Italians inhabited this land way before anyone else. However, this same professor noticed another inscription on the back of the box written in much smaller print that was subsequently proven to be written in Aramaic. This inscription read - "Kosher."

I guess God made this decision too.



The Poet's Corner

Lush Surrender

Freckled faced strawberries Sun speckled, green crested cones, Snatched from vine Bowed berry crowns swished, Stacked in rows, Rough raspy skin, Red rouged flesh Caresses my lips... Soft, sweet surrender.



Janet Lieberman September 23, 2010







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Hidden Ridge GEM 6675 Overland Drive Delray Beach, FL 33484





Issue 13-01

Name: _____

Hidden Ridge Directory Information Sheet

Please complete the following form and return it with your maintenance payment. Return this form if there are any recent changes.

 Hidden Ridge Address:
 Phone:

The following information will be kept confidential.

However, it will be included in the Hidden Ridge Directory if you check the appropriate line(s). Please indicate below.

I want my alternate address/es and phone numbers included in the Hidden Ridge Directory.

Alternate Address #1:

Phone: _____ I want my cell phone number/s included in the Hidden Ridge Directory. Cell Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ I want my email address/es included in the Hidden Ridge Directory.
 Email Address #1:

 I want my birthday/s (list name/date for more than one) and anniversary listed in the GEM Birthdays _____ Anniversary _____