



We Appreciate Those Who Serve on the Board

Our thanks to the volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors of our Community Association. They work hard on many complex issues in behalf of our community.



Board of Directors—2012-1013

Lon Bishop, Sue Miller, John Normand, Barbara Pavelle, Jerry Weber,
Lil Russell-Nicolai, Don Brady

Look what's just around
the corner...



New Community Website—check it out!

Find the new Four Seasons website at ...
our4seasons.org

Check out the newly formatted **community directory** and **resident phone list**. A **community forum** is being added to the website. The forum will provide a place for residents to talk to each other about issues and topics of current interest. Watch for more information about this exciting new feature and about dates for training seminars on how best to use it!

~ Meet your Neighbor ~



Kathryn
Benzinger

Kathryn Benzinger — Still “Young-at-Heart” at 96

Story by Vera Reece

Many residents of Four Seasons have lived long and interesting lives, but Kathryn Benzinger must be near the top of the list in both categories. She has been partner with her late husband, Fred, in an outstanding local nursery business, famous for its daylilies, but she also was a twenty year volunteer with the rescue squad, raised eight children, traveled widely, and is now actively learning painting and mah-jongg in the Clubhouse. For this story she generously shared some of her personal history.

Kathryn was born in Arlington, Virginia, in 1916, but her family moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland when she was five, so she grew up there. During World War II they moved to New Jersey. Kathryn was now in her 20's and began working for the telephone company, eventually transferring to College Park, Maryland.

Having a keen interest in gardening, Kathryn decided to take advantage of her close proximity to the University of Maryland and enroll in a horticultural class. It was there that she met Fred, the “love of her life”. Fred, a WWII veteran, was following his passion for gardening and greenhouse growing by pursuing a Horticultural degree. Fred and Kathryn had an immediate attraction and after a quick courtship they were married in September, 1949. Since Fred's floral interest at this time was in chrysanthemums, they honeymooned through New England and Canada, visiting various growers.

After their honeymoon, Fred got a job working for a nursery in Waynesboro where he built and managed greenhouses. Though he enjoyed the job, after awhile Fred told Kathryn that he really wanted to have his own business. Kathryn recalls that he told her to get in the car and go to Charlottesville and drive north. Once they got out of Albemarle county, he wanted her to stop at every filling station and ask if anyone knew of any land with water for sale. They didn't have to make many stops, because at that time there weren't many stations!

— continued on p. 6

~ Purple Martins Coming Home ~



Harold Robbins and Orv Kiehn put up the purple martin birdhouse behind the Clubhouse. Thanks, guys, and thanks to **Foothill Irrigation** for giving the birdhouse to our community!

Listen for the Purple Martins

Story by Vibe Weber

If you hear a “liquid gurgling warble”, you may be hearing a **purple martin** (*Progne subis*). Now that we offer a multi-family complex for nesting, we are looking forward to having them again at Four Seasons. Hopefully, before the year is out, we will see them swooping around the newly erected birdhouse.

Purple martins are the largest members of the Swallow family. The males are an iridescent, dark blue-purple. They have stout, slightly-hooked bills and long tapered wings. They can be found anywhere from Canada to the West Indies in warmer weather, and they winter in South America. Their normal habitat is open farmland, woodland, and residential areas.

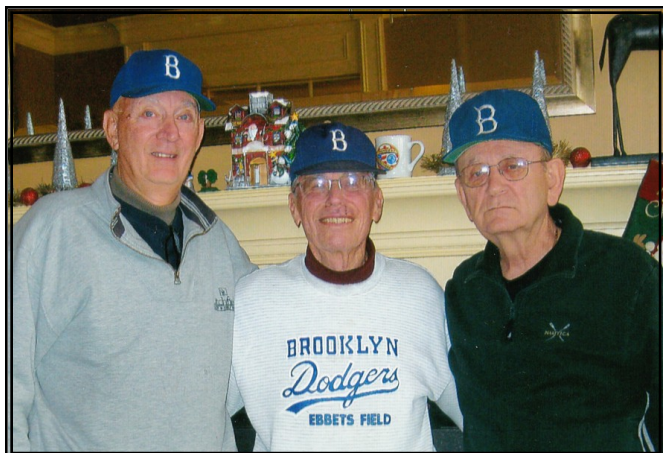
When it is time to nest they prefer the company of their fellow martins in a multi-compartmented house. They will return to the same nesting site, year after year, if conditions are right. Their nests are a mass of plant material in which the monogamous couple typically lay and hatch 4-5 white eggs. It is 26-32 days until the young fledge. During the next few weeks, they learn from their parents, are fed by their parents, and may return to the nest in the evenings (hmmm...sound familiar?).

Martins are aerial acrobats known for their speed and agility. Typically when approaching their nest, they will dive at great speed with their wings tucked until the last second. It is during flight that they catch their food — flying insects, dragon flies, **stink bugs!**, Japanese beetles, bees, wasps and more, but their diet does not include mosquitos because they feed in the day, well above ground level.

In order to attract nesting purple martins, the house placement is of utmost importance — no closer than 120 feet from a building, in open space, with no nearby trees. Our purple martin house is well-placed. The most important thing at this point is to keep the house clear of other birds nesting. House sparrows and starlings are the major competitors and are in the area before purple martins return for nesting. Even the gentle Eastern bluebird may be interested. To keep the space open, the house will be monitored by the Grounds committee weekly until the martins return later in the Spring.

Look for these exciting and useful visitors this Spring, and by all means if you see any, tell them we have vacancies!

***The "Brooklyn Dodgers Boys"
Display Their Vintage Hats***



Vince Donnelly, Jack Sauter, Marty Cavanagh

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***~ Restaurant review ~***



At the corner of Route 29 and Hydraulic Road is one of the newest restaurants in Charlottesville, **Burtons Grill**. The restaurant is located at *The Shops of Stonefield* in the same shopping center as the new Regal 14 movie theatre.

The restaurant is modern in design and appointment, but the food more than replaces any ambiance one may find lacking. Two primary goals of the staff are to provide quality food in a gracious and friendly setting. We experienced both. The wait staff was very friendly and in complete command of the menu, being able to answer questions and make suggestions about the offered fare. Burtons offers selections at both lunch and dinner, including gluten-free, vegetarian, and children's menus.

Service was provided at a good pace but we did not feel hurried. Burtons prides itself on both the freshness and quality of the food it prepares. Nothing is prepared until the food order is placed with the Chef. Perhaps a little more time than usual passes until the meal is placed on the table, but the wait is worth the time. Salads were crisp; the entrees we ordered were excellent in both taste and presentation.

The restaurant describes itself as Upscale Casual and the cost of your meal may be slightly more than for other similar restaurants of its kind in the greater Charlottesville community.

Burtons Grill restaurants may also be found in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and South Carolina. One may find the restaurant on the web at [www.BurtonsGrill.com](http://www.BurtonsGrill.com). Bon Appetit!

*- review by Lon Bishop*

**Stories of the Dodgers**

Vince, Jack, and Marty met at the Friday morning Gentlemen's Coffee soon after moving here. And when the conversation turned to baseball...three old Brooklyn Dodgers fans started sharing stories. Thanks to Vince, Jack, and Marty for letting us in on some of their history...

***Vince Donnelly***

I was born in Brooklyn in 1938. On my mother's side, all of my uncles and cousins lived in Brooklyn or Queens, and all were committed Dodgers fans. (My father was a Giants fan but eventually switched!) I had severe asthma as a child so my parents chose to move to Arizona to gain the warm, dry climate. My mother would take me and my younger sister back to Brooklyn during the summer to visit her relatives. Many nights were spent watching Dodgers games at Ebbets Field with family. In 1957 the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles and my beloved Dodgers were right in my backyard!

***Jack Sauter***

I was born and lived in Queens and Nassau Counties on Long Island until age 33. I saw my first Dodgers game in 1941 (versus the Cubs) and immediately was "hooked". I saw the last game the "Beloved Bums" played in Ebbets Field in 1957 (vs. the Pirates) and saw quite a few other games in-between. Many great Dodgers teams but, except for 1955, it was always "Wait Till Next Year" or "Forgedda Boudit"!

***Marty Cavanagh***

Let's start on Bergen Street in Brooklyn when I was 7 or 8 and lived up the street from my grandmother who had a back yard porch. After the war, both of my uncles lived there, and on almost every Sunday during the season they would have the Brooklyn Dodgers on the radio. Red Barber and Connie Desmond did the broadcast. After a year or two I was hooked. On one particular Sunday, my Uncle John said, "go get your Cheese Wiz glass", and he poured in about an inch of the one-and-only Schaffer Beer. We toasted the Dodgers, and that day I became a "True Dodgers Fan".

My family moved to Long Island and I remained a Dodgers fan. I knew the averages of Hodges (still my favorite), Robinson, Reese, Snider, Campy and all the rest—they brought many a community together in many ways. Never did you hear a bad word against any Dodger. They were always helping out the people of Brooklyn because many of them lived there. I would be amiss if I did not mention Vin Scully—Hall of Fame broadcaster, who has been the voice of the Dodgers from the early 1950's all the way to last season.



Stonehenge

Jim Litton & Betty at a 14th century Episcopal Church in Litton, England



King's College

## An Exciting and Poignant First Trip to England, November 2012

Story by Betty & Bill Ray

An extraordinary story links the charming village of Litton in Somerset, England with one of America's most famous choral conductors and his family. **Litton** is the surname of Betty Ray and her only brother, Jim.

The story begins in 1962. While studying music at Canterbury, Jim, his lovely wife Lou Ann, and 18-month-old son were driving to another town and saw a sign, "*LITTON, one mile*". That is when they first visited the village of Litton in Somerset, nestled in the Chew Valley at the foot of the Mendip Hills, with its 14<sup>th</sup> century Episcopal parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jim and Lou Ann decided this is where they wanted their final resting place. Over the years, they visited numerous times.

Betty and Bill, her brother and his four adult children, spouses, and three grandchildren flew to England on November 8th to gather for the interment of Lou Ann. The interment was followed by a four-hour lunch attended by various friends and colleagues of Jim's from England, Wales, and France. The site for the lunch was the charming 15<sup>th</sup> century Kings Arms Inn and Pub in Litton ([www.kingsarmslitton.co.uk](http://www.kingsarmslitton.co.uk)). The Litton family occupied the entire Inn for three days. Betty and Bill were excited to stay at a five-star B&B nearby—HarpTree Court, a gorgeous country home built in 1797 ([www.harptree-court.co.uk](http://www.harptree-court.co.uk)). The Litton family was featured with a picture and article in the *Mendip Times* magazine.

Following the lunch, the Litton family attended Evensong at Wells Cathedral, the beautiful early Gothic style cathedral with the west front covered in medieval sculptures of saints and kings. They also enjoyed seeing Stonehenge nearby.

Betty, Bill, and brother Jim spent several days touring London and its numerous cathedrals, cruising the Thames River, and visiting Westminster Abbey and Greenwich. It truly was a thrill to attend many Evensong services at the famous St. Paul's Cathedral in London, visit St. John's and Kings College in Cambridge, and eat fish and chips at various pubs. Betty and Bill did NOT try to drive on the left side and deal with those huge hedgerows!

Tell us about your recent trip!  
Send pictures and details about your trip to  
[blueridgebreeze@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgebreeze@gmail.com)

### About Dr. James Litton, Betty's Brother

Jim conducted the world-famous American Boychoir in over 2,000 concerts in 49 states and 12 countries and has more than 40 recordings with the Boychoir. He was organist and director of music at St. Bartholomew's in New York City and held positions at Westminster Choir College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Virginia Theological Seminary, as well as being choirmaster of the Washington National Cathedral for two years.

### ~ Did you guess who? ~



From the last issue -



This little girl grew up to be???



Barbara Pavelle!

### ~ Do you know who this is? ~

His name and current picture will be revealed in the next issue of the newsletter!!





## ~ What's New in the Community? ~

### Lights Work Again on the Four Seasons Entry Tower

Thanks to **Doug Miller** and **Spencer Crute** for getting the tower lights working again.



### Entry Gates Are Repaired and Up



Thanks to **Harold Robbins**, **Ron Heinz** and **John Normand** for installing the gates at the entrance way to the community. The gates look great!

### Reinventing Solar Lighting for the Entry Tower

Story by Doug Miller

*Spencer Crute helped me with this project — both with installation and with thinking the whole project through.*

The Four Seasons Homeowners Association maintains the brick tower located at the corner of Route 33 and Greenecroft Boulevard. Our tower has a lighting system that is powered by nothing more than sunshine. Maybe you have noticed the pair of solar panels mounted just south of the tower?

Last fall the original system installed by the builder failed. We tried a repair — replacing a failed controller unit with a similar factory-rebuilt unit, but that also failed. As we worked with the system, we also found design problems that made it difficult to maintain the system, monitor performance, and diagnose problems. It looked like the system would benefit from a complete redesign.

First we checked to see what was salvageable from the existing system. The two solar panels looked to be in good condition. They each provide up to 170 Watts of power at 40 volts DC. Their remaining service life is expected to be some 20 years. The four lead acid batteries also appeared to be in good condition. All the cables were like new.

The next decision was critical: what would we choose to replace the failed controller unit and its associated relay driver. We checked the equipment available for solar power systems and found a line of equipment made by Morningstar Corporation that was affordable and highly rated by users, and that provided all the features we desired.

This stage involved a couple of days of research. Both Spencer and I had spent some time with the original system and with installation of the second version of the original equipment. Once it was decided to redesign the system we knew we would have to do it ourselves due to cost limits.

*- continued in next column*

### *Reinventing Solar Lighting (cont.)*

I did the redesign. Spencer helped with the final installation and the relay design. He was the person who suggested we try using automobile relays — which we did in the end. All-in-all, it was about a week's work to do the whole project.

The core of our new system is a Solar Charge Controller and a four channel Relay Driver. The Charge Controller uses the electrical power produced by the solar panels to charge the batteries. The Relay Driver uses data from the Charge Controller to manage the lighting. We use the voltage of the solar panels to detect sunset and sunrise. The Relay Driver also monitors the battery voltage. When you see the lights lit on the tower, you know that two relays are latched on — one controlled by darkness and the second by adequate battery voltage available to handle the load.

On a clear, sunny day, the system charges the batteries with about 25 amps of current. This is a surprising amount of power, if you think about it. Most of the battery chargers available for recharging car batteries deliver six to ten amps. Our system has about three times the capacity of one of these car battery chargers, and all from the sun.

Our lighting system uses about 53 watts of power. In the winter we have about 14 hours of darkness and 8-9 hours of possible charge time. On a sunny day we will make enough electrical power to last through the night. On a cloudy day we will not make enough power to last all night. In the summer time the system should have no problem keeping the lights lit all night.

Now that the system is working full-time, we have found that the batteries need water every 60 days or so. The everyday cycling of the batteries depletes the water as it is bubbled off as hydrogen and oxygen a little each day. Other than this minor chore, we hope to get many years of maintenance free service life from our new equipment.

*(Kathryn Benzinger story continued from page 2)*

One of their stops led to a property on Route 29, north of the present location of Sheetz. The land belonged to a couple from DC who used it as a vacation place. Fred took his shovel to the property to make sure the soil was good, and liking what he found, Fred wrote to them introducing himself and explaining his desire to purchase some land. The couple agreed to sell them 13 acres. So Fred quit his job in Waynesboro and moved to Greene County, where he and Kathryn built their home and then a greenhouse. Benzinger Nurseries was formed and soon became a thriving business.

Fred and Kathryn (and eventually their 8 children) all worked the nursery themselves - never hiring outside help. Since the greenhouse business was not good in the summer, Fred began looking into growing a summer flower to generate more business. He discovered a love for daylilies and began making hybrids. Eventually they closed the greenhouse side of the business and changed the name to "Benzinger Daylilies". Fred was a well-known grower, and his reputation for the daylilies quickly spread. People came for miles to buy his beautiful creations. Kathryn was pleased because the daylily business freed up more time. She and Fred began taking cruises and enjoyed many wonderful trips over the years.

Kathryn recalls that the greenhouse and nursery business was very hard, but it was a wonderful life. The customers were like family – when they came to purchase things they would sit and visit, not like a quick trip to Walmart!

When the children grew up, Kathryn became a charter member of the Greene County Rescue Squad. It was around 1968, and the Greene County Ruritan Club decided the County needed a rescue squad. She always had a desire to be in the health field and felt this would be a good way to fulfill that need. Kathryn spent 20 years volunteering for the Rescue Squad, eventually becoming a cardiac tech as well as leading training classes for new squad members. She was on-call five days a week, and sometimes even took the night shift. When the Squad first got started, the only place in Greene County that had a 24-hour phone service was Ryan's Funeral Home. So the Funeral Home would take the emergency calls and pass them on to the Rescue Squad. Kathryn loved her time with the Rescue Squad, and although Fred would sometimes grumble about her service, he said she never missed preparing their meal.

Eventually Fred and Kathryn realized the nursery business was getting to be too much for them. They contacted a realtor and their property sold easily. It was at the same time Four Seasons was starting development. Since Fred wanted to stay in Greene County, it was a perfect fit. Kathryn recalls how there were so few residents initially that they would get together for meals in the Model Home.



"Buttered Pop-corn" — one of many prize-winning varieties of Benzinger daylilies.

Kathryn says that she has truly lived a wonderful life. With 8 children, 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren – she and Fred built a true legacy! She misses Fred terribly but cherishes her memories. They were able to celebrate their 60th anniversary in the Clubhouse ballroom and shared it with the entire community. And since Fred brought his love for daylilies with him, we are all able to enjoy his flowers throughout the neighborhood.

Although she is alone now, Kathryn believes that their decision to move to Four Seasons has given her the ability to live a full, active, happy retirement. She loves her home and wonderful, caring neighbors as well as the opportunities available here. For example, one thing she always dreamed of doing was painting. When art classes were offered in the Clubhouse she was able to fulfill that dream – something she says "would have never happened if we hadn't moved here". Her beautiful sunroom with the morning light offers the perfect spot to pursue this dream and talent. She is looking forward to continuing her lessons when additional classes are offered. You may think she would be ready to slow down a little but that is clearly not the case - she is active in two "Red Hat Societies" and enjoys playing mah-jongg! It is clear to me that her laughter and beautiful smile are also responsible for keeping her young-at-heart and one of the many treasures of our community.



**March  
31**



Looking for Short Trip Ideas

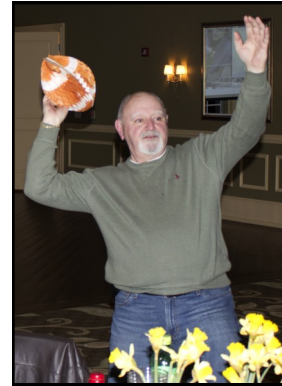
Several residents have asked for information concerning 1, 2 or 3 day trips that can be taken from the Charlottesville area. If you have taken a trip that you would love to share with your neighbors, send that information to us at...

[blueridgebreeze@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgebreeze@gmail.com)

~ Community Social News ~



**Super Bowl Party  
February 3**



**Jerry Besanson** gets ready to throw long, but is that a paper football??

**Third Thirsty Thursdays**

**March 21.** Chef Jerome from the *Bavarian Chef* will once again delight us with a **St. Patrick's Day dinner**. Our own musicians will entertain the group with Irish music. The Social Advisory Group will serve dessert as well as their usual special Irish coffee.

**April 18.** There will be a "**Spring Fling**" complete with dinner and dancing. Watch for more details.

Mark your calendars for both March and April's TTT!

**Social Committee News**

The **Social Advisory group (SAG)** has a new chairperson, **Sandi Lashbrook**, who, even in a short time, has been doing a great job. The SAG is always looking for new members and new ideas. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in the Clubhouse cafe and are informal. All are welcome!

For the February **Ladies Lunch Bunch** event, **Diane Horvath**, who has recently joined SAG, arranged for 25 women to tour three local B&B's. The ladies enjoyed a luncheon at one of them. The last Friday of the month is the usual day of the Ladies Lunch Bunch. Watch for future dates and events.

**Sweet Music to Your Ears  
April 6 — Save the Date**

Many of you heard and enjoyed the **Skyline Harmony Chorus** last year. This is the "Sweet Adeline's" women's barbershop chorus of which **Shelby Martin** is a member. There will be another chance to see and hear them perform on **Saturday, April 6th** at The PlayOn Theatre at the IX.

**Happy Birthday Thomas Jefferson!  
April 12 at Monticello**

Did you know there is free admission to the grounds of **Monticello** on April 12 to celebrate Thomas Jefferson's birthday? Hours are 8:30 am—6:00 pm.

It's just a short ride to Monticello. The prettiest route is via Watts Passage to Stony Point, where you can catch Rt. 20. Just follow Rt. 20 right down through Charlottesville to the Monticello turn off. And you will go right by the historic Michie Tavern — a fun lunch stop.

**"Spring Fling" at Carter Mountain  
Orchard**

**Saturday, April 27, 10-5**

Free admission and parking. Lots of activities for families and there will be wine tastings.



## ~ Classified Ads ~

This section is for residents only and features any thing or service that you might want to sell or give away to other residents. Ads will be run for one issue of the newsletter and then removed. If you would like your ad to be run again, contact someone on the Communication's Team.

**Free Notary Service.** One day advance notice will be helpful. Email atrjs4p@virginia.edu or call Rauzelle Smith at 434-985-3395.

**Alterations**—slacks, coats, skirt hems, etc. Betty Ray—434-985-8593. (Betty had her own dressmaking business for many years. )

**Small Electrical Services.** Call Harold Robbins, 434-985-7202.

**For sale** — Two ladders, 8' Warner aluminum step ladder, 16' adjustable ht. aluminum ladder. Call Harold Robbins, 434-985-7202.

**Free**—Slightly used recordable VHS tapes. If interested, e-mail cohenaec@gmail.com or call Sandy & Arthur Cohen at 434-985-8977.

**For Sale**—36' Fifth Wheel Travel Trailer Interested?? Call Bill or Sue White at 434-990-6504 for more information.

### The Mountain Breeze at Four Seasons Charlottesville

*Published bimonthly for the Four Seasons Charlottesville Community.*

*Any fact, opinion, or information expressed in an article is that of the author and not of Four Seasons at Charlottesville Community Association, Inc. The representations, opinions, facts, or information set forth in the articles are not binding on the Association nor are the views and opinions expressed in the articles the views or opinions of the Four Seasons Community Association. This publication is provided for information purposes only.*



### Name the newsletter?

Yes, the envelope please...

### "The Mountain Breeze"

is the people's choice, so it's official!



Happy  
St. Patrick's Day!  
March 17

Many thanks to those people who have submitted articles for the newsletter. If you do not see your article in this edition, we will try to include it in a later issue. The Communications Committee reserves the right to edit any article for length or clarity.

**The deadline for the May/June issue is April 8**



Passover begins  
the evening of  
March 25 and  
ends the evening  
of April 2.

### The Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee

Larry Miller, *chairman*  
Dianne Wilson, *newsletter editor*  
Terry Pratt                      Vera Reece  
Arnie Silverman                      Coleen Sizer

### Phone Numbers to Remember

Club House — 434-990-2012

Emergency — 911

Greene County Sheriff's Office — 434-985-2222

Identity Theft Hotline — 877-438-4338

National Do Not Call Registry — 888-382-1222

Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia — 804-648-0016